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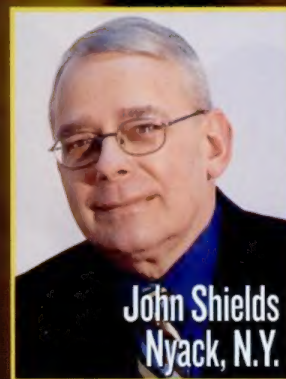
The national gay & lesbian newsmagazine

Advocate

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DECEMBER 21, 2004



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New Paltz, N.Y.



John Shields
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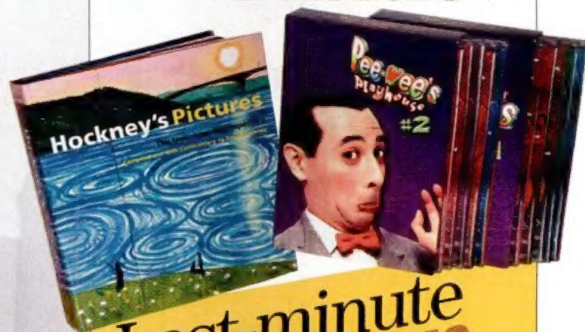
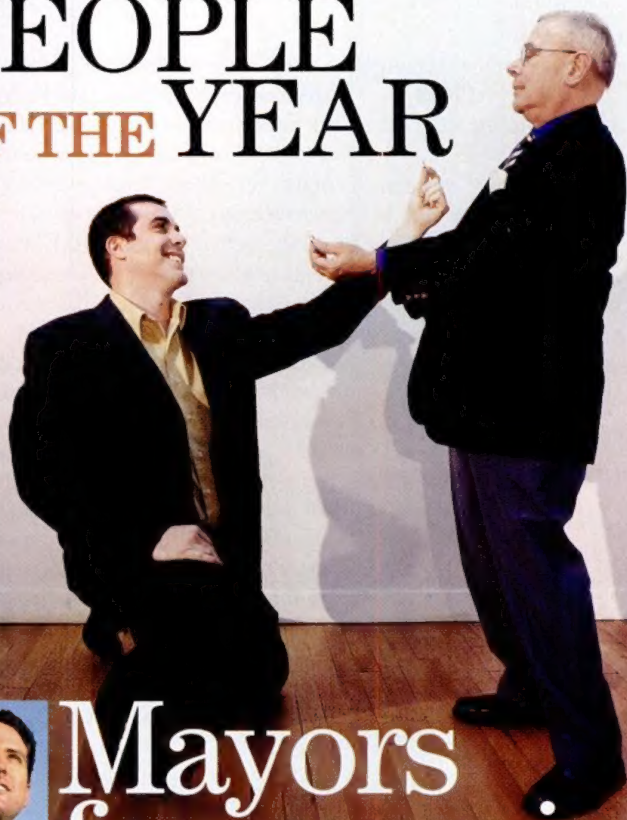
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Learning from Melissa

I am a 33-year-old woman, with breast cancer running a strong and wicked course through my family. I drink, I smoke, and I have every reason to be aware. I have every reason to check my breasts. There is a fear inside us—fear of finding out that you have it. I read your article on Melissa Etheridge's breast cancer ["Life Lessons From Melissa," November 23], and that's when it hit

ward the very women you are trying to educate.

Barbara Johnson, Burtonsville, Md.

My thoughts are with Ms. Etheridge as she battles breast cancer. She is such a talented performer as well as a true humanitarian. Her work for gay issues, environmental and animal rights issues, and other social justice causes is admirable. Blessings to you, Ms. Etheridge.

Aleksei Green, via the Internet

"Breast cancer is an equal opportunity employer. It doesn't care about your history, fame, or wealth."

—KELLY LeCAPE, Los Angeles, Calif.



me. Breast cancer is an equal opportunity employer. It doesn't care about your family's history, your success, your fame, your happiness, your wealth. I must commend Melissa on speaking out about being gay and, now, about her breast cancer. She doesn't have to do this. But by doing so, she makes people like me do what I don't want to do: face my mortality—and check my breasts.

Kelly LeCapé, Los Angeles, Calif.

How can you have an article about a lesbian with breast cancer, an article purported to be a "special report from the women and researchers on the front lines," and not even mention the Mautner Project, which is the national lesbian health organization. The Mautner Project has been on the front lines of cancer since its inception nearly 15 years ago, and its executive director, Kathleen DeBold, has most certainly been on the forefront of lesbian health. You do a great disservice to the lesbian community by your omission of this important lesbian health organization in a health article geared to-

Wedding day jitters

I am glad more gay and lesbian people are starting to realize that there is more to the legal recognition of same-sex relationships (civil unions, domestic partnerships, marriages) than a gift registry, a reception, and 1,100 "protections" granted by the federal government ["Not Getting Married Today," November 23]. As a domestic-relations attorney for almost 15 years, I advise my clients on rights and responsibilities incident to marriage and divorce. In my opinion, far too many members of the LGBT community who seek legal recognition of their relationships lose sight of the obligations incident to the dissolution of such relationships.

I believe gay couples should be afforded the same federal and state rights as heterosexual couples regarding the options to have their relationship legally recognized, but people should know what they are getting into. Some people have found out the hard way that, while spending their vacation in Vermont was enough time for them to obtain

a civil union, to undo that relationship one of the parties must be a resident of Vermont for several months. The same will be true in Massachusetts. All states have residency requirements (of varying length) to dissolve such relationships. Ending a legally recognized relationship is more than just dividing photographs and compact discs. In Vermont and Massachusetts, one spouse may have a legal obligation to financially support the other spouse after separation, even if it is only during the divorce proceedings. Many clients of mine have realized that it may be less expensive for them to try and work out their problems than undergo the financial wranglings incident to divorce.

In this day of "Oops, I did it again" quickie marriages and annulments, it is heartening to read that some members of the LGBT community are making sure legal recognition of their relationship is what works best for them.

Michael L. Viola, Philadelphia, Pa.

On February 16, my partner of 17 years and I stood in the rain and cold for two days in San Francisco and were one of the nearly 4,000 couples who were legally married in California. Of course, the California supreme court gratuitously dissolved our unions a few short months later. But for a little while the impossible seemed possible. We did it.

Now we're facing the realities of the Leno bill becoming law on January 1 and our domestic partnership needs to be dissolved. I had an accident and suffered a broken back in March. The private insurance carrier paid the bills and covered my spouse too—until I lost my job. Then it was onto Medi-Cal (the California answer to Medicaid) for us both.

Under the new law, it seems that we may no longer qualify for Medi-Cal if we are anything other than "roommates" for legal purposes. Hang the fact that our combined income off Social Security is barely \$2,000 a month and our rent is equal to that amount. While I don't think Mark Leno even suspected this unwanted twist could be derived ►

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THE ADVOCATE POLL

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In the November 23 issue, we asked:

Do you get regular checkups for the health problems for which you are most at risk?



Reader comments from www.advocate.com

- "I am seropositive, so I see my doc every three months for viral labs and monitoring. It's pretty effortless, but I long for the days when I rarely saw a doctor once a year for anything."
- "Being male, I can't be placed on my husband's insurance, since I am not legally recognized as his spouse. Since I don't have coverage, I can't seek medical treatment."
- "Yes, of course! I pay over \$500 a month (not including deductibles and medicine) for my health care, and I intend to get my money's worth. I have *everything* checked out."
- "My car gets better checkups than I do! I simply can't afford health insurance."
- "I hate it. As a 'boy-girl,' as my son calls me, I do not like being reminded that I have female parts that need scraping and examining, poking and prodding. I prefer to live in denial and mentally think of myself as above this because I am masculine."

from his legislation, Medi-Cal is looking for any excuse to get people off public programs due to various budget cuts imposed by Governor Schwarzenegger. Some of the best legal minds in GLBT law in California believe that we should (indeed must) dissolve our domestic partnership prior to January 1.

So after 17 years together, 17 years of paying taxes, 17 years of building homes, 17 years of building a business, and 17 years spent raising a child together, we have to choose between health care to keep us alive or minimal legal recognition of our relationship. Since we're both poz, it's a no-brainer.

We've downloaded the form for dissolution of our partnership. We've signed it. But neither of us has found the heart to mail it yet. Dropping that document in the mail represents the loss of something we've fought for, hoped for, and prayed for. My mind knows what we must do; my heart just cannot do it yet.

Mark Issacs, West Hollywood, Calif.

Not for women only

I was angered by Laura Weinstock's column [Last Word, November 23]. Northampton is known as the "lesbian mecca" of the United States.

However, when you visit Northampton, one of the things you will notice is that the lesbian population has not driven out straight people. This is not a gay town. It is a small New England town that happens to have a lot of lesbians. I don't think people here are trying to assimilate. I think they are trying to live and raise their families in a place where their kids aren't the only kids with gay parents and where there will be gay people in their neighborhood.

I have lived in Northampton for 2½ years, and I love it. How many small New England towns have you been to that have a gay pride celebration attended by thousands of people every single year? How many small New England towns have you been to that put up signs in storefronts on May 17 to show support and solidarity with those who would now have the right to be married? This is by no means a perfect place, and it is not the Castro or the Village or Dupont Circle. It isn't trying to be.

Northampton is not for everyone. It is very small and very New England. It is not a big city, and it's not going to have the feel, politics, or pretty much anything that any of those places have. It is what it is, and a good number of us live here and love it and would never leave or

change it significantly. I suggest, Ms. Weinstock, that you get over it, find another place to live, or create some of the things you feel are missing yourself.

Tara Lindros, Northampton, Mass.

Thank you, Laura Weinstock. This issue is so difficult to articulate, but you did a stellar job. I live in a small town in the Southwest that is virtually lesbian-free. When I talk about needing lesbian community, my het friends are offended on some level and ask if it really makes a difference. I don't expect them to understand this need entirely, but when they see a group of us dykes together, I think they get an inkling. I have lesbian friends who say they don't really need to be in a lesbian community. That I don't get. And there is no explaining to them. Thanks.

Nancy A. Drigotas, Ajo, Ariz.

Wow and kudos to Laura Weinstock for speaking her voice! Obviously too many in her community (and others across our land) have become too complacent to realize that we do deserve to be different, even as we become part of the mainstream woven fabric.

Horst Glamsch and Brian Crawford
via the Internet

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WeHo, warts and all

America's First Gay City," as West Hollywood, Calif., is sometimes called, just turned 20. On November 29, to be precise. And if you failed to celebrate—well, maybe you should reconsider. I know, I know: You're sick of hearing about WeHo as if it were the center of the gay universe. Believe me, I understand. I own a home here, but I've also had a love-hate relation-

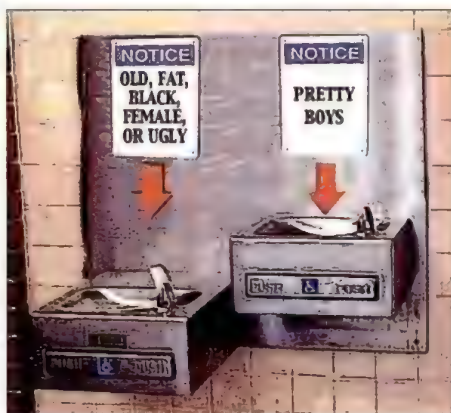
ship with the place, going back decades. In the 1970s, as a card-carrying member of the Lavender Left, I wouldn't have been caught dead spending my time or money in such a shallow, sexually objectifying, racially intolerant gay ghetto (unless you count a few memorable trysts here). A bitter gay character in one of my mystery novels put it this way: "Boys Town is a gay paradise, unless you're old, fat, black, female, or ugly."

So why should we care about WeHo's 20th anniversary? Because when gay residents forged an alliance with renters and seniors back in 1984, using a ballot measure to form a new, independent city, they proved that grassroots politics can work—that local government can be made to be responsive to a wider range of needs and issues. That's an important lesson, especially when a vitriolic and divisive national election has just left many of us feeling frustrated and cynical about what we can do to make a difference.

When I first encountered WeHo's thriving gay subculture three decades ago, the most popular dance club in town barred blacks, Latinos, women, and older men by demanding three pieces of picture ID at the door, while pretty underage boys slipped past with a wink. One of the owners, whom I briefly dated, once defended the practice, asking rhetorically, "You don't want a great club to be ruined by too many blacks and

Mexicans, do you?" (I immediately lost all desire to touch him, even if he was a dreamboat.) Plenty of gay men knew what the club was doing and flocked to it anyway. Today, the city council would step in and stop that kind of discrimination in a heartbeat.

Today, in this little city of 1.9 square miles and 36,000 residents—roughly a third identified as GLTB—



there are nearly 250 city-supported housing units, a pay-what-you-can lunch program for the elderly and homeless, free condoms and HIV testing all over town, city hall outreach to the growing Russian refugee community, transgender employees at city hall, a sheriff's substation with openly gay deputies, and public protest rallies organized with lightning speed by the city in response to hot-button issues like same-sex marriage and antigay violence.

It wasn't like this prior to November 29, 1984. In those days, homeless

men with AIDS were literally dying along the sidewalks of Santa Monica Boulevard, sheriff's deputies routinely treated queers like dirt, and outsiders disdained the Boys Town club culture as snobby and racist, with good reason. One of the first acts of the new city council was to force a local tavern, Barney's Beanery, to remove its infamous sign that read FAGOTS STAY OUT. It was a small but symbolic victory and a harbinger of things to come.

I'm not arguing that West Hollywood is a perfect city, or even a gay mecca. But it is a special place, warts and all. A passage in my latest mystery novel, *Moth and Flame*, which revolves around WeHo's colorful history, sums up why I still

live here. It refers to two young men who've just met during gay pride weekend and might be falling in love:

"They deserved a chance to find each other, to test the connection, to have the same shot at intimacy and happiness as anyone else. In West Hollywood, for all its silliness and superficiality, all its self-conscious glitz and glamour, all its attention to image and gratification, they were given that chance. Whatever its flaws, it was a city that let people be

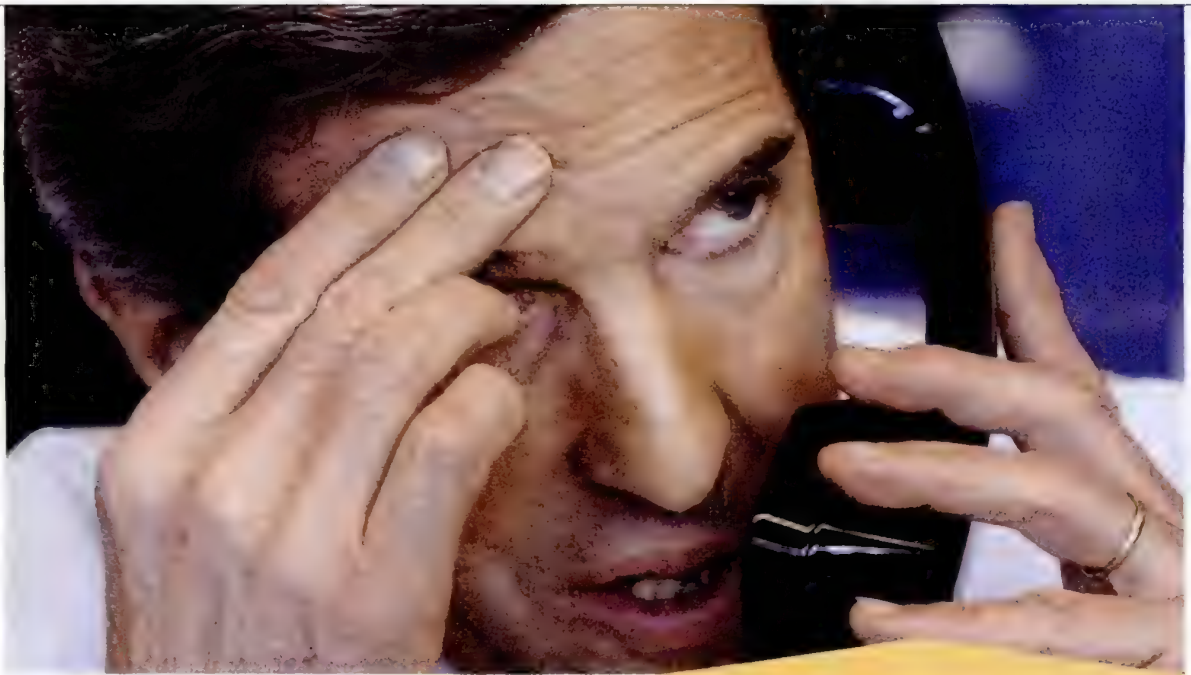
themselves and make their own choices about whom they loved and how, without judgment or condemnation or shame."

This unique city exists because some determined women and men joined together and made a difference. As much as West Hollywood sometimes makes me crazy, I wish there were more cities like it. ■

Wilson has won the Edgar Allan Poe Award and three Lambda Literary Awards for his gay-themed Benjamin Justice novels.

In the 1970s the most popular dance club barred blacks, Latinos, women, and older men. Today, the city council would stop that in a heartbeat.

rants & raves



"I hope we all realize that, as of November 2, gay rights are officially dead. And that from here on we are going to be led even closer to the guillotine."

—Activist and writer Larry Kramer, speaking at New York City's Cooper Union, November 7

"Looking for a way to pick up swing voters in the red states [in the weeks before the election], former president Bill Clinton, in a phone call with Kerry, urged the senator to back local bans on gay marriage. Kerry respectfully listened, then told his aides, 'I'm not going to ever do that.'"

—From the November 15 cover story "How Bush Did It" in Newsweek magazine

"You will have opportunity to...exercise forceful leadership with the Congress in passing legislation that is defined by biblical norm regarding the family, sexuality, sanctity of life, religious freedom, freedom of speech, and limited government."

—Bob Jones III, president of Bob Jones University, in a congratulatory letter to President Bush, November 3



"I'm so disgusted to be a heterosexual right now."

—Betty DeGeneres, referring to the November 2 election results, at the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center's Anniversary Ball, November 6

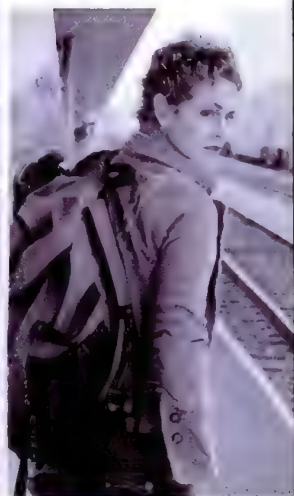
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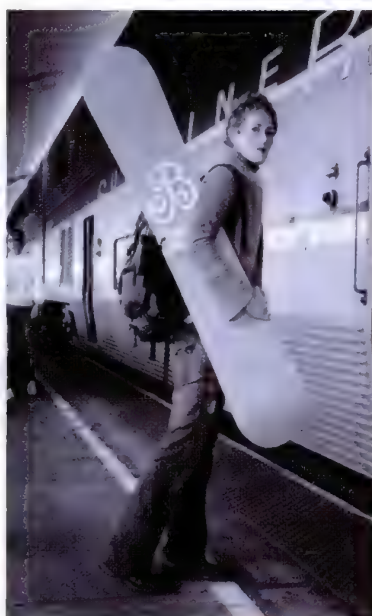
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At Issue

Domestic argument

While some call for moderation after November 2, advocates for marriage equality aren't backing off

After 11 states across the nation passed constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage in November, the screaming call for full marriage rights for U.S. gay couples has become a shouting match among gay rights advocates. While some are calling for a reevaluation of the push for marriage, others note that with gays and lesbians continuing to wed in Massachusetts, the issue is not going away.

California assemblyman Mark Leno, for one, is not letting up. He planned this month to reintroduce his bill to legalize marriage for same-sex couples in the state. Los Angeles activist Ivy Bottini, on the other hand, believes Leno's Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act is ahead of its time. "I'm very upset that we have been pushing on marriage," she said. "There is so much education to do on it."

Washington, D.C., political strategist David Mixner disagreed, arguing that November's election results were no excuse to let up on the demand for equality. "We have the obligation to continue the struggle," he said. "We must never give politicians the right to negotiate parts of our freedom away so they can feel politically comfortable."

Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said that Leno's bill is precisely the kind of educational tool that marriage equality advocates

should be using to further the debate. "We took a body blow [on November 2] largely because the important work of providing education and real conversations just haven't happened enough," she noted. "To have these conversations against the backdrop of legislation is really helpful."

Geoffrey Kors, executive director of Equality California, said Leno's bill is part of the incremental strategy activists have been following since 1999 with the introduction of the state's domestic-partnership registry. Kors said that introducing a bill at the beginning of a two-year session of a Democrat-controlled legislature with a sympathetic governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, in Sacramento is the right kind of strategy in the right kind of atmosphere to advance the cause.

"Unlike those ballot measures [that came to a vote in November], we have a year and a half to prepare," he said.

Dave Noble, executive director of the national political group Stonewall Democrats, said the lessons that gays and lesbians should take from November 2 are about determination, not compromise. "Certainly we're angry and hurt by these margins," he said. "It's not just about out-strategizing and outmaneuvering our opponents. We can't take the election results as a reason to curl up and hide. We still need to move forward." —*Christopher Lisotta*

Mark Leno: Forging ahead with a marriage equality bill in California



The military bans Boy Scouts | Page 14 ▶

The Nation

SOCIETY

Scouts take a hit

Thanks to its discriminatory policies, including banning openly gay members, the Boy Scouts can't get direct financial support from the military.

Acting on complaints filed by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Pentagon has agreed to warn military bases worldwide not to directly sponsor Boy Scouts of America activities, because the group requires members to believe in God.

"If our Constitution's promise of religious liberty is to be a reality, the gov-

ernment should not be administering religious oaths or discriminating based on religious beliefs," said ACLU attorney Adam Schwartz.

The Pentagon has argued that it has a long-standing policy that prevents the military from funding nonfederal groups, but officials decided to send out a warning reminding bases of the rule. The move does not prevent military personnel from volunteering and allows the Boy Scouts to use facilities open to the public. It also does not resolve the \$2 mil-



The U.S. military's ban on support for the Boy Scouts leaves unresolved its subsidizing of the Jamboree.

lion budget the military spends every four years to prepare a base for the Boy Scout Jamboree. Neither

the Boy Scouts' gay ban nor the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy was affected by the agreement.

McGreevey's new life



Former New Jersey governor James E. McGreevey—who resigned November 15 after confessing to a gay affair—is now adjusting to private life. He has moved into a new office in the town of Woodbridge, where he was once mayor.

McGreevey, in an interview with the Associated Press, described this period in his life as painful, but he added that "citizens, families, friends were incredibly kind, loving, and supportive. You quickly understand what is important are those relationships and the care and support you receive."

McGreevey, who had been accused by some critics of having had an inept or even corrupt administration, still refuses to elaborate on the man he said he had an affair with while governor, said by aides to be Golan Cipel from Israel. Cipel has denied the affair.

McGreevey has separated from his wife and may take a job with a law firm or a non-profit. "I'm going to provide the necessary amount of time to evaluate different options and opportunities," he said. "I want to continue to serve. I'm going to move to private life and begin to focus on the next chapter."

EDUCATION

Book ban stopped

The Solon, Iowa, school board shut down a few antsy parents who wanted to ban two gay-themed books from the dis-

trict's eighth-grade curriculum. *Am I Blue?* deals with a boy's sexual identity; *In the Time I Get is a*

dying of AIDS who is befriended by a teen.

Parents said the books perpetuated gay stereotypes, but eighth-grade teacher Sue Protheroe argued that the books actually promote tolerance.

"If your goal is to

take your personal views and instill them in your children and also force them on all children, then the road to the state school board is open to you in Des Moines," said board member Ben Pardini.





The word on HIV:

Ask your doctor how REYATAZ, in HIV combination therapy, can help you
fight HIV your way.

Individual results may vary.

INDICATION: Reyataz (atazanavir sulfate) is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Reyataz has been studied in 48-week trials in both patients who have taken or have never taken anti-HIV medicines.

Reyataz does not cure HIV or help prevent passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

Do not take Reyataz if you are taking the following medicines: ergot medicines, Versed[®], Halcion[®], Orap[®], Propulsid[®], Camptosar[®], Crixivan[®], Mevacor[®], Zocor[®], rifampin, St. John's wort, AcipHex[®], Nexium[®], Prevacid[®], Prilosec[®] or Protonix[®]. Do not use Viagra[®], Levitra[®], Cialis[®], or Vfend[®] while you are taking Reyataz without first speaking with your healthcare provider. **This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.**

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur and could be a symptom of a heart problem.
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.
- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).
- **Rash** (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking Reyataz, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within two weeks with no change in treatment.
- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like Reyataz.
- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

Common side effects of Reyataz taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea, headache, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, fever, dizziness, trouble sleeping, numbness, and tingling or burning of hands or feet.

You should take Reyataz once daily with food (a meal or snack). You should take Reyataz and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

Please see important information about REYATAZ on the next page.

Once Daily REYATAZ is a protease inhibitor (PI) that is taken in HIV combination therapy.

- ◆ Can help raise your T-cells
- ◆ Can help lower your viral load to undetectable*
- ◆ Low chance of diarrhea (shown in clinical trials)[†]
- ◆ Two pills taken once-a-day (with a snack or meal)[‡]

*Undetectable is defined as a viral load of less than 400 or 50 copies/mL (depending on the test used).

[†] REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea.

[‡] People who have taken anti-HIV medicines before usually take REYATAZ with ritonavir once daily as part of their HIV combination therapy.

WWW.REYATAZ.COM

You and your doctor can **fight HIV your way.**


REYATAZ[®]
(atazanavir sulfate) 150 mg/200 mg capsules

Rx ONLY

PATIENT INFORMATION

REYATAZ® (RAY-ah-taz) (generic name = atazanavir sulfate) Capsules

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ. Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?"

Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is REYATAZ?

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.

REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take REYATAZ?

Do not take REYATAZ if you:

- are taking certain medicines. (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients. The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ? Tell your healthcare provider:

- if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- if you are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- if you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- if you have diabetes. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- if you have hemophilia. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- About all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

How should I take REYATAZ?

- Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
 - For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the usual dose is 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily taken with food.

– For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg (two 150-mg capsules) plus 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food.

Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) or with VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR® (ritonavir).

- Always take REYATAZ with food (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. Do not open the capsules. Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- If you are taking antacids or VIDEX® (didanosine) Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets, take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider. It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you miss a dose of REYATAZ, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.
- If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ, call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

Can children take REYATAZ?

REYATAZ has not been fully studied in children under 16 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under the age of 3 months.

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

The following list of side effects is not complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:

- rash (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- yellowing of the skin or eyes. These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.
- a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- if you have liver disease including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- changes in body fat. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?

Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- HALCION® (triazolam, used for insomnia).
- VERSED® (midazolam, used for sedation).
- ORAP® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:

- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- CRIDVAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIDVAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood. This may lead to

an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:

- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
- "Proton-pump inhibitors" used for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as Aciphex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole).

Do not take the following medicines if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR® together:

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely:

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil). REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- LIPTOR® (atorvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- VASCOIR® (bedritil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporine), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).

The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:

- FORTOVASE®, INVIRASE® (saquinavir).
- NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA® (efavirenz).
- VIDEX® (didanosine) or antacids.
- VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOSTUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVERA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil) and others.
- BIAxin® (clarithromycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPICID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine).

Women who use birth control pills or "the patch" should choose a different kind of contraception. REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of birth control pills or the patch. Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective contraceptive.

Remember:

1. Know all the medicines you take.
2. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.
3. Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.

How should I store REYATAZ?

- Store REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do not store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Throw away REYATAZ when it is outdated or no longer needed by flushing it down the toilet or pouring it down the sink.

General information about REYATAZ

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.

This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember, no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-426-7644.

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

Active ingredient: atazanavir sulfate

Inactive ingredients: Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

* VIDEX® is a registered trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. COUMADIN® and SUSTIVA® are registered trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharma Company. Other brands listed are the trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.

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Princeton, NJ 08543 USA

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The Nation

AMENDMENT

Utah's ban reaches all

A new amendment to the Utah constitution doesn't just ban same-sex marriage; it says "no other domestic union" can be equivalent to a marriage. Now at least one attorney is arguing that this definition must include heterosexuals.

Mary Corporon filed a motion in November contending that Amendment 3

makes it unconstitutional in Utah to enforce a court protective order obtained by her male client's onetime live-in girlfriend. But attorney Monte

Stewart, cochairman of a group that supported the amendment, said such arguments ultimately will fail. "Lawyers representing clients...are obligated to throw up just about everything and anything they can think of," he said.

Across the Nation

Eugene, Ore.

More than 100 students at North Eugene High School on November 4 walked out of their classes to protest the state's newly passed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

Leavenworth, Kan.

A superior court on November 16 dismissed criminal charges against transgender Sandy Gast, who was arrested and incarcerated in April for "false swearing" after she listed her sex as female on a marriage license application.

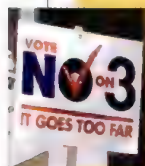


Spurger, Texas

The local school district scrapped an annual event scheduled for November 17, when boys and girls exchange gender roles and clothing, after one parent complained it was part of a "homosexual agenda." The event was replaced with Camo Day, for which black boots and Army camouflage was the theme.

Fulton County, Ga.

Gay rights activists filed a lawsuit November 9 to throw out a newly passed ballot measure amending the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage. They argue the measure is unconstitutional as it also bans same-sex civil unions, among other things, and a measure may cover only one issue at a time.



The World



Extending greater rights to gay and lesbian couples would be the "Christian" thing to do, said Ireland's Catholic prime minister, Bertie Ahern, in a November 14 interview on Irish state broadcaster RTE. Ahern was responding to a lawsuit filed by a lesbian couple who were married in Canada last year. A judge ruled on November 9 that Ann Louise Gilligan and Katherine Zappone could sue for the right to file a joint tax return in their native Ireland. They are report-

edly the first same-sex couple to try to have a marriage recognized there.

"We should try to deal with some of the issues [same-sex couples] have to surmount in their daily lives," Ahern said. But the legalization of same-sex marriage in Ireland, he added, is probably "a long way off."

Meanwhile, in the neighboring United Kingdom, the house of lords on November 17 approved the Civil Partnership Bill, giving same-sex couples most of the rights of marriage.

Behind the Headlines



Finding asylum

After he was arrested for sodomy and tortured in Uzbekistan, bisexual reporter Ruslan Sharipov escaped to the United States

In May 2003 Ruslan Sharipov was arrested by the government of Uzbekistan for "engaging in homosexual acts" and having sex with minors. The 26-year-old bisexual journalist was sentenced to four years in prison, where he was tortured into giving officials a confession.

In reality, Sharipov—a reporter for a Russian news agency—was being punished for writing about human rights abuses committed by Uzbekistan's government. In November 2003, while still in prison, he won the World Association of Newspapers' prestigious Golden Pen of Freedom Award for his human rights work.

Last summer, just before being transferred to a remote city to serve out the remainder of his

sentence, Sharipov fled Uzbekistan for Moscow. He applied for political asylum in the United States and arrived here in late October. He recently spoke to The Advocate about his harrowing journey.

—Patrick Letellier

Were you out as a bisexual man in Uzbekistan?

I wasn't advertising it. But people knew because for several years, besides general human rights work, I was defending sexual minorities. After I saw how the police torture and use [laws against homosexuality in] the criminal code to blackmail people, I decided I had to defend sexual minorities. Nobody was doing that kind of work in Uzbekistan. Everybody is afraid and says, "We can't talk about that."

Were you afraid of what might happen to you?

Of course. If you do human rights work or media work in Uzbekistan, there is a special department that watches you 24 hours a day. I had no personal life. They knew every place I went, everything I did. Many times government officials gave me warnings that I would be imprisoned or killed.

Why didn't you stop?

I thought the government was lying. I was in close contact with a lot of international human rights organizations, and I immediately let them know about any threats. But on May 26, 2003, I was walking with my friends in the center of Tashkent, the capital, and two people came and arrested me. They weren't able to find anything to charge me with, so they made false charges: homosexual violations and sex with minors.

You were tortured in prison. Can you tell me about that?

Yes. They used a gas mask. They put it on my head and closed it so that I could not breathe. They sprayed unknown substances into my throat. Simultaneously they put electric shocks on different parts of my body. So while you can't breathe, you're getting electric shocks. Once I lost consciousness. And they injected unknown substances into my veins. They told me it was HIV and other infections. They also made me write a suicide note. I couldn't understand if it was for real or

just to frighten me. That was the worst thing.

You were still in prison when you won the Golden Pen Award. So how did you find out?

Some prisoners had radios, and news of the award was played on the radio. The news spread all over the prison colony. I was so happy. The award and the big publicity were very helpful. Thanks to this campaign, the torture stopped and my conditions were better. Uzbekistan officials were afraid of the international attention.

What happened to your family?

The government threatened my mother and brother numerous times. Frightened them. After I was arrested, they had to leave the country. My mother told me that they had to leave. She said, "I don't want to leave you alone here." I said, "It's safer for you to leave." They came to California, where my older brother has lived for five years.

What is it like to be in the United States now?

I feel free again. When I came here I understood that after all that time of fear, finally I can rest. Many people take freedom and human rights for granted living here.

What's next for you?

I don't know for sure yet. I am horribly tired from all that has happened, and I'm so happy that I can just go to bed without fear. I am weak, my health is not good now, but I hope soon it will begin to get better. It will take time.

Money

SALES

Unmanly spirits

Despite what some might say is a derogatory name, a New Zealand wine targeting the country's gay population has become so popular that the company is ex-



panding sales to Sydney. Pansy rosé comes with a pink screw cap and a label describing it as "fresh, funky, and fun." "Pansy is about friendship, kindness, and generosity," said winemaker Erica Crawford, describing herself as "a straight mother from [Auckland] launching a gay wine in Sydney."

RETAIL

T-shirt says it all

A new T-shirt by Make It Happen Ventures capitalizes on a phrase that made headlines with New Jersey governor James McGreevey's dramatic coming-out. The retailer, which bills the shirt as "politically inspired with a patriotic spirit," said it will donate a portion of its proceeds to various gay rights organizations. Find it at www.gay-american.com.



Atkins (right) leads a group at his new yoga studio, which opened with a loan from the country's first gay NEDO.

BUSINESS

Help for gay entrepreneurs

Minorities have often looked to Neighborhood Economic Development Organizations to get their small businesses off the ground, and now the gay community is no exception. With a \$75,000 grant from the Mayor's Office of Community Development, San Francisco launched the nation's first NEDO for gay entrepreneurs in late October.

"I felt that economic em-

powerment was really an agenda for our community," said Bevan Dufty, an openly gay San Francisco supervisor who helped start the gay NEDO. "There are a lot of gay people who have aspirations for having their own businesses."

Local resident LaMott Atkins was the first to receive a small business loan, which he used to open his Bikram Yoga/Castro studio.

Far Right

Falwell's new windfall

Now that evangelicals have proved their political mettle by helping to reelect President George W. Bush to a second four-year term, antigay Christian leader Jerry Falwell says he's going to launch an "evangelical revolution." A new association called the Faith and Values Coalition, headed by Falwell, will work to shape a more conservative U.S. Supreme Court, pass a federal constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, and elect another "George Bush-type" conservative in 2008.

"We all, for the first time, began to realize the potential of religious con-



servatives, particularly evangelicals, when something over 30 million of them went to the polls," Falwell said.

The notoriously conservative religious broadcaster said the new coalition would be "a 21st-century resurrection" of his failed Moral Majority, a group he started in 1979.

Transitions

ACQUIRED: The gay community magazine *Texas Triangle*, by Qtexas Publishing LLC. The company on November 5 announced plans to turn the publication into a statewide weekly beginning in January.

EXECUTED: Demarco McCullum, 30, for the 1994 abduction, robbery, beating, and fatal shooting of openly gay Michael Burzinski of Houston, at a Texas prison, November 9.

REMEMBERED: Slain transgenders Gwen Araujo and Toni "Delicious" Green, at the sixth annual Transgender Day of Remembrance in San Francisco, November 20.

RESIGNED: Aimee Gelnaw, as executive director for the pro-gay parents organization Family Pride Coalition, after four years. She will leave in 2005.

Generation Q

The election should rally gay youth

As I sit here writing this, America has just reelected a homophobic president, and 11 states have amended their constitutions to discriminate against same-sex couples. So what is a disenchanted gay boy to do? I've thought about moving to Canada, but I love the United States, and I want this country to do the right thing.

As a fourth-year political science major at Washington State University, I understand the gravity of this election, not only as a student seeking a job but as a gay man fighting for equality. I fear my equal rights are now a generation away. The feeling among my friends and classmates is one of loss, a slaughter of rights, and a demise of choice. In so many ways the things we have gained are facing doom.

So as gay and lesbian youth we need to take this



Name: **Nathan Julius**
Age: **21**
Hometown: **Pullman, Wash.**

negativity and start a modern gay rights movement. Let's position ourselves in places of influence and make sure our presence is known—let our government know we are real people, not policies. By using our collective power we can make positive things happen. Utilize resources available to you at your school, work, or in your community to advance gay rights. Ask your gay student club or local gay rights organization how you can help

promote gay equality and visibility. If

our president and Congress aren't going to protect us, it's time for us to ensure our own justice. Rally, be proud, and campaign against homophobia.

Personally, I am a card-carrying member of Lambda Legal, and I'm going to law school next year to study civil rights. I am not a second-class citizen. This time it's war, and it's going to get dirty. With so much to lose, it's dangerous not to get involved.

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FIRST PERSON
Andersonville, Ga.

Mitchell Anderson, who came out while still a regular on TV's *Party of Five*, is happily settled in Atlanta, where he and his partner are changing the world one neighbor at a time. An Advocate.com exclusive.



FIRST PERSON
Dad's coming-out

What's more difficult than helping your teenage son through his coming-out? Coming out to your son shortly thereafter. Read the true story of a gay father and son only at www.advocate.com.



COMMENTARY
Welcome to Canada

After 10 years in the United States without a green card, Austin Kiyomiya had had enough. Then Canada welcomed him and his partner, and he became an immigration consultant. Read his story—and his advice—only at Advocate.com.



You can find links to related Web sites for most stories in this issue at www.advocate.com. When you see the mouse icon at the end of a story, you will also find additional exclusive features at www.advocate.com.

From the Advocate Archives

June 28, 1994

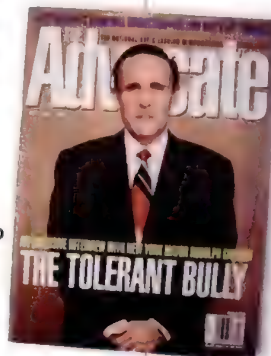
Giuliani supports the gays—sort of

In this issue of *The Advocate* we celebrate the efforts of three mayors who were willing to take a stand for gay and lesbian equality. But it isn't the first time a mayor has graced our cover.

Ten years ago *The Advocate* profiled New York City's newly elected and controversial mayor Rudolph Giuliani. At the time, Giuliani had already angered many gay and AIDS activists by proposing to cut back or eliminate the city's

Division of AIDS Services. And he angered even more gays when he marched in the city's gay-exclusionary St. Patrick's Day parade.

But Giuliani received praise for his support of the city's gay pride celebration, telling *The Advocate* it would educate the "broad middle ground of people who are very often operating out of false assumptions...but who can be reached with a positive message about gays and lesbians." Moreover, he said he opposed antigay violence and supported gay-inclusive civil rights and antibias bills. —Don Romesburg



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the Buzz



Bernal and Javier Cámara in *Bad* (left); *Shame*'s Selma Blair

Another gay filmmaker, another NC-17

THE MOTION Picture Association of America continued its jihad against gay sexuality in movies when Pedro Almodóvar's *Bad Education* was slapped with an NC-17 rating. Like John Waters's *A Dirty Shame*, the film was given

the most restrictive rating despite the absence of explicit sexual content.

Publicists for *Bad* say objections were raised over a scene in which Gael Gar-

cía Bernal, in drag, simulates oral sex on another man. The ratings board didn't object to Bernal's head moving from side to

side, but they did have a problem with his head bobbing up and down.

"To try to dissect the minds of the MPAA with regard to what is acceptable can be a black hole of inscrutable logic," says Dawn Hudson of the Independent Feature Project/Los Angeles, who says independent filmmakers have often been left out of the MPAA's decision process. She hopes that the organization's new president, Dan Glickman, will be open to a little *Education* from IFP about the difference between art films and pornography.

Rent's due, at last

WHEN OUT ACTOR Anthony Rapp heard that director Chris Columbus was finally bringing *Rent* to the big screen, he didn't sit by the phone waiting for an offer to reprise his Broadway role as aspiring filmmaker Mark Cohen. He was well aware that when shows become movies—like, say, *Chicago*—the stage actors are often replaced by more bankable movie stars.

"I had done *Adventures in Babysitting* with Chris



Rapp (right) with Joey Fatone, who also played Mark onstage

years ago," says Rapp, currently starring in the tour of *Little Shop of Horrors*, "but I didn't imagine it would work out the way it worked out." Not only is Rapp getting to reprise his role but most of his

original costars—including Taye Diggs, Adam Pascal, and Idina Menzel—are in talks to come back as well.

"I went on the Internet and saw that some people feel like we're too old for the parts, but I like to think that people in their early '30s are still young," says Rapp, 33. Hey, it worked for *Grease*.



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Details on use of EPZICOM

- EPZICOM in combination with other antiretroviral agents is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in adults.
- EPZICOM is one of 3 medicines containing abacavir. Before starting EPZICOM, your healthcare professional will review your medical history in order to avoid the use of abacavir if you have experienced an allergic reaction to abacavir in the past.
- In one study, more patients had a severe hypersensitivity reaction in the abacavir once-daily group than in the abacavir twice-daily group.
- EPZICOM should not be used as part of a triple nucleoside regimen.
- EPZICOM does not cure HIV infection/AIDS or prevent passing HIV to others.

Important safety information

EPZICOM contains abacavir, which is also contained in ZIAGEN® (abacavir sulfate) and TRIZIVIR® (abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine). Patients taking EPZICOM may have a serious allergic reaction (hypersensitivity reaction) that can cause death.

If you get a symptom from 2 or more of the following groups while taking EPZICOM, stop taking EPZICOM and call your doctor right away:

1. Fever
2. Rash
3. Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal (stomach area) pain
4. Generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness
5. Shortness of breath, cough, or sore throat

Carefully read the Warning Card that your pharmacist gives you and carry it with you at all times.

Now:



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Ask your doctor if new EPZICOM can be part of your HIV regimen.



If you stop EPZICOM because of an allergic reaction, **NEVER** take EPZICOM or any other abacavir-containing medicine (ZIAGEN, TRIZIVIR) again. If you take EPZICOM or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, **WITHIN HOURS** you may get life-threatening symptoms that may include very low blood pressure or death.

If you stop EPZICOM for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to EPZICOM, talk with your healthcare professional before taking it again. Taking EPZICOM again can cause a serious or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction before. If your healthcare professional tells you that you can take EPZICOM again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a doctor if you need one.

A buildup of lactic acid in the blood and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been reported.

Some patients infected with both hepatitis B virus (HBV) and HIV have worsening of hepatitis after stopping lamivudine (a component of EPZICOM). Discuss any change in treatment with your doctor. If you have both HBV and HIV and stop treatment with EPZICOM, you should be closely monitored by your doctor for at least several months.

The most common side effects seen with EPZICOM in combination with efavirenz were trouble sleeping, depression, headache, tiredness, dizziness, nausea, diarrhea, rash, fever, stomach pain, abnormal dreams, and anxiety. Most of the side effects do not cause people to stop taking EPZICOM.

Please see important information about EPZICOM on adjacent page.



GlaxoSmithKline

MEDICATION GUIDE

EPZICOM™ (ep' zih com) Tablets

Generic name: abacavir sulfate and lamivudine

Read the Medication Guide that comes with Epzicom before you start taking it and each time you get a refill because there may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment. Be sure to carry your Epzicom Warning Card with you at all times.

What is the most important information I should know about Epzicom?

- **Serious Allergic Reaction to Abacavir.** Epzicom contains abacavir (also contained in Ziagen® and Trizivir®). Patients taking Epzicom may have a serious allergic reaction (hypersensitivity reaction) that can cause death. **If you get a symptom from 2 or more of the following groups while taking Epzicom, stop taking Epzicom and call your doctor right away.**

	Symptom(s)
Group 1	Fever
Group 2	Rash
Group 3	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal (stomach area) pain
Group 4	Generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness
Group 5	Shortness of breath, cough, sore throat

A list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. Carry this Warning Card with you.

If you stop Epzicom because of an allergic reaction, NEVER take Epzicom (abacavir sulfate and lamivudine) or any other abacavir-containing medicine (Ziagen and Trizivir) again. If you take Epzicom or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, **WITHIN HOURS** you may get **life-threatening symptoms** that may include **very low blood pressure or death.**

If you stop Epzicom for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to Epzicom, talk with your doctor before taking it again. Taking Epzicom again can cause a **serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before.** If your doctor tells you that you can take Epzicom again, **start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a doctor if you need one.**

- **Lactic Acidosis.** Some HIV medicines, including Epzicom, can cause a rare but serious condition called **lactic acidosis with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly).** Nausea and tiredness that don't get better may be symptoms of lactic acidosis. In some cases this condition can cause death. Women, overweight people, and people who have taken HIV medicines like Epzicom for a long time have a higher chance of getting lactic acidosis and liver enlargement. Lactic acidosis is a medical emergency and must be treated in the hospital.

- **Worsening of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection.** Patients with HBV infection, who take Epzicom and then stop it, may get "flare-ups" of their hepatitis. "Flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before. If you have HBV infection, your doctor should closely monitor your liver function for several months after stopping Epzicom. You may need to take anti-HBV medicines.

Epzicom can have other serious side effects. Be sure to read the section below entitled "What are the possible side effects of Epzicom?"

What is Epzicom?

Epzicom is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV infection. Epzicom includes 2 medicines: abacavir (Ziagen) and lamivudine or 3TC (Epivir®). See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in Epzicom. Both of these medicines are called nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs). When used together, they help lower the amount of HIV in your blood. This helps to keep your immune system as healthy as possible so that it can help fight infection.

Different combinations of medicines are used to treat HIV infection. You and your doctor should discuss which combination of medicines is best for you.

- **Epzicom does not cure HIV infection or AIDS.** We do not know if Epzicom will help you live longer or have fewer of the medical problems that people get with HIV or AIDS. It is very important that you see your doctor regularly while you are taking Epzicom.
- **Epzicom does not lower the risk of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.** For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take Epzicom?

Do not take Epzicom if you:

- **have ever had a serious allergic reaction (a hypersensitivity reaction) to Epzicom or any other medicine that has abacavir as one of its ingredients (Trizivir and Ziagen).** See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in Epzicom. If you have had such a reaction, return all of your unused Epzicom to your doctor or pharmacist.
- **have a liver that does not function properly.**
- **are less than 18 years of age.**

Before starting Epzicom tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- **are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** We do not know if Epzicom will harm your unborn child. You and your doctor will need to decide if Epzicom is right for you. If you use Epzicom while you are pregnant, talk to your doctor about how you can be on the Antiviral Pregnancy Registry for Epzicom.
- **are breastfeeding.** Some of the ingredients in Epzicom can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if they could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV should not breastfeed because HIV can be passed to the baby in the breast milk.
- **have liver problems including hepatitis B virus infection.**
- **have kidney problems.**

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Especially tell your doctor if you take:

- methadone
- Hivid® (zalcitabine, ddC)

EPZICOM™ (abacavir sulfate and lamivudine) Tablets

- **Epivir or Epivir-HBV® (lamivudine, 3TC), Ziagen (abacavir sulfate), Combivir® (lamivudine and zidovudine), or Trizivir (abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine).**

How should I take Epzicom?

- **Take Epzicom by mouth exactly as your doctor prescribes it.** The usual dose is 1 tablet once a day. Do not skip doses.
- **You can take Epzicom with or without food.**
- **If you miss a dose of Epzicom, take the missed dose right away. Then, take the next dose at the usual time.**
- **Do not let your Epzicom run out.**
- **Starting Epzicom again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before.** If you run out of Epzicom even for a few days, you must ask your doctor if you can start Epzicom again. If your doctor tells you that you can take Epzicom again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a doctor if you need one.
- **If you stop your anti-HIV drugs, even for a short time, the amount of virus in your blood may increase and the virus may become harder to treat.**
- **If you take too much Epzicom, call your doctor or poison control center right away.**

What should I avoid while taking Epzicom?

- Do not take **Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC), Combivir (lamivudine and zidovudine), Ziagen (abacavir sulfate), or Trizivir (abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine)** while taking Epzicom. Some of these medicines are already in Epzicom.
- Do not take **zalcitabine (Hivid, ddC)** while taking Epzicom.

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection, as Epzicom does not stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.

- **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
- **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.**
- **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- **Do not breastfeed.** Epzicom can be passed to babies in breast milk and could harm the baby. Also, mothers with HIV should not breastfeed because HIV can be passed to the baby in the breast milk.

What are the possible side effects of Epzicom?

Epzicom can cause the following serious side effects:

- **Serious allergic reaction that can cause death.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about Epzicom?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.)
- **Lactic acidosis with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) that can cause death.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about Epzicom?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.)
- **Worsening of HBV infection.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about Epzicom?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.)
- **Changes in body fat.** These changes have happened in patients taking antiretroviral medicines like Epzicom. The changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the back, chest, and stomach area. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.

The most common side effects with Epzicom are trouble sleeping, depression, headache, tiredness, dizziness, nausea, diarrhea, rash, fever, stomach pain, abnormal dreams, and anxiety. Most of these side effects did not cause people to stop taking Epzicom.

This list of side effects is not complete. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

How should I store Epzicom?

- Store Epzicom at room temperature between 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).
- Keep Epzicom and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information for safe and effective use of Epzicom

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in Medication Guides. Do not use Epzicom for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give Epzicom to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about Epzicom. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for the information that is written for healthcare professionals or call 1-888-825-5249.

What are the ingredients in Epzicom?

Active ingredients: abacavir sulfate and lamivudine

Inactive ingredients: Each film-coated Epzicom Tablet contains the inactive ingredients magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and sodium starch glycolate. The tablets are coated with a film (Opadry® orange YS-1-13065-A) that is made of FD&C Yellow No. 6, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol 400, polysorbate 80, and titanium dioxide.



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Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

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HIV544R0

August 2004



Idaho dad Theron McGriff shows mementos of his children as he fights for custody.

C U S T O D Y

Parent vs. parent

Gay dads and lesbian moms are winning new recognition of their rights, but many still lose their children **BY JEN CHRISTENSEN**

Elsey McLeod doesn't think she's asking for anything unusual. The Colorado woman just wants to continue her role as a parent to the daughter she jointly raised with her former partner, Cheryl Clark.

For nine years their little girl has known the women as "Mommy" and "Momma," respectively. But the only guardian listed on the child's adoption papers is Clark—McLeod's name omitted by necessity because China, their daughter's country of origin, doesn't allow adoptions by gay or lesbian couples. Furthermore, Colorado doesn't recognize coparent adoptions by same-sex couples. With the financial support of an anti-gay marriage group, Clark—now an evangelical Christian—is trying to exploit the limitations of these laws to deny McLeod parental rights.

"Because of that inherent discrimina-

tion in Colorado law, gay couples are forced into a Solomon choice—but in this case, you don't split the baby, you have to split who gets to be the adoptive parent," says Michael Brewer, legal director for the Colorado Legal Initiatives Project. The nonprofit group has filed an amicus brief on McLeod's behalf. So far, the courts have ruled in McLeod's favor, determining that she was the child's "psychological" parent and that the child would be emotionally harmed if the woman she calls Mommy is left out of her life. Clark is appealing that decision.

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn sodomy laws in 2003 and the Massachusetts supreme judicial court's decision to legalize marriage for same-sex couples this year together appear to signal a tectonic shift in regard to gay equality in the legal system. But gay parents who break up are still find-

ing themselves in legal limbo, forced to sew together a patchwork of protections to ensure that both are shown due consideration as their children's legal parents. Some ex-partners use antigay laws to deny the other custody. "We jokingly call these the 'lesbians behaving badly' cases," says Patricia Logue, senior counsel with Lambda Legal's Midwest office. "They really mirror the complexity of where the country stands on gay relationships."

Expenses mount in fights with mixed outcomes for nonbiological or nonadoptive parents. Many are hoping the courts will begin sending clearer signals about what it means to be a gay parent and how that definition will play out in custody battles.

"The question comes down to, Are the courts ready to recognize our families?" asks Suzanne Goldberg, a visiting law professor at Columbia University who has won several gay rights cases.

Legal experts divide gay custody battles into two categories: cases between gay couples and cases between married couples where one spouse is gay. As several recent high-profile custody cases illustrate, the courts have been inconsistent in dealing with gay couples. In cases concerning formerly married parents, gay rights advocates point to progress in several notable rulings this year:

- In North Dakota, Valerie Damron now has custody of her daughters after the state supreme court overturned a ruling that had denied custody because her relationship with a woman gave her the "wrong moral character" to be a mom.
- In Tennessee, an appeals court overturned a ruling that Joseph Hogue's son would be harmed if exposed to his father's "gay lifestyle."
- In Missouri, Rachel Dickens will be getting another shot at custody of her daughter after the state appeals court ruled that an earlier decision was wrong in denying her custody because she lived with her same-sex partner.

A decision in a similar case in Idaho this year followed this same legal trend but bore mixed results for one gay parent. Following the case of Theron ►

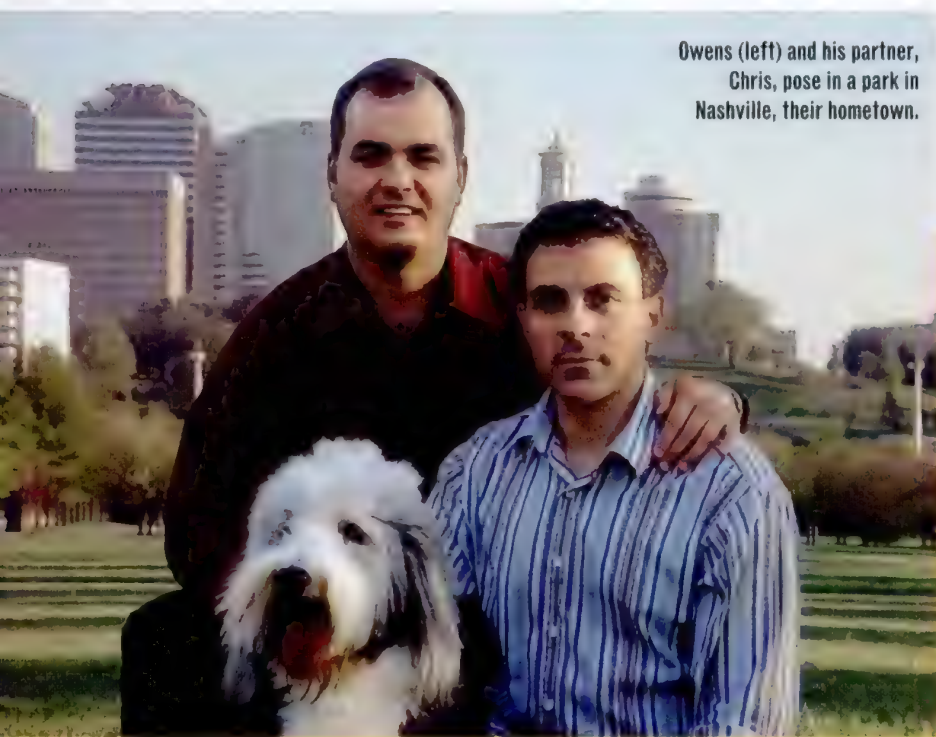
McGriff, the Idaho supreme court ruled that sexual orientation could no longer be used as the sole reason to deny custody. Nevertheless, the same court ruled that McGriff couldn't keep his children overnight if his partner slept in the same home. During the bitter custody hearing, his ex-wife argued that

Idaho Falls was a small town and kids at school would harass their daughters if they knew McGriff is gay.

Dozens of McGriff's friends and neighbors are quietly proving that judgment wrong. Once a month they bring covered dishes and a \$10 donation to a potluck held in his honor. The ever-

hopeful gay father uses the money to pay his enormous legal bills. "All I want in this world is to be allowed to have my whole family together," he says.

"Overall, gay parents' rights are increasing in these cases," says Logue. "Especially in light of *Lawrence* [the 2003 Supreme Court decision overturning sodomy laws], which now makes it so clear that courts must reject rulings based solely on their animosity toward gay people." And with civil unions in Vermont and California and same-sex marriage in Massachusetts, some gay parents are legally entitled to the same rights as heterosexual married parents.



Owens (left) and his partner, Chris, pose in a park in Nashville, their hometown.

Against the odds

My partner and I have decided to fight for my children—whatever it takes **BY MIKE OWENS**

I was married for 12 years. My wife and I had four healthy boys, and I had a great job, enjoying several promotions as we moved across the country, from North Carolina to Chicago and finally to Denver. Yet inside I was living life as a closeted gay man, running from the person God had created and settling for what others expected.

Four years ago, as my marriage continued to deteriorate, I decided to explore my true identity. My wife and I separated, then divorced, and she took the kids to live in her hometown in rural Arkansas. I became friends with Chris, a piano player at a local Denver restaurant I frequented on business. As that relationship grew into more than a

friendship, Chris and I began dating.

After coming out to my family and friends, I wanted to introduce my partner to my children, ages 14 and 12, plus 9-year-old twins. In 2002 we moved to Nashville to be closer to my kids.

However, my ex-wife felt that I lived an immoral life that runs counter to the conservative beliefs the children are being taught. She sought a court injunction preventing me from taking my kids "around anyone who has different beliefs than them." Thus began the legal battles that have put me thousands of dollars in debt.

Determined to stand up for what we thought was right and in the best interest of my children, Chris and I em-

barked on a journey to have the court validate my right as a father to let my kids see me for who I really am. Along the way, we hoped to show them that being gay doesn't make a person scary or dangerous. In a perfect world, I would like my kids to know the support and love of their mother, me, and my partner. Children can never have too many people in their lives who love them.

Unfortunately, that was not the view of the court.

In July, Chris and I found ourselves at a hearing in rural Marion, Ark. We were ready to fight for my right to be the father I was meant to be to my children.

However, the judge ruled that Chris could be around the children for no more than one hour per day. Successfully bringing any new spouse or partner into children's lives can be very difficult in the best of circumstances. The court's restrictions make it almost impossible for the process of healing to take place in our family.

Prior to this latest court battle, I talked to my kids several times each week and saw them every third weekend. Things are much more strained now, and I have not seen them in two months. We have talked only briefly on the phone. However, I'm not going to give up. I will continue to fight for a healthy relationship with my new family, which includes my partner and my children. Someday I hope they will see that I have fought to open their eyes to the importance of accepting and loving others—one of God's greatest commandments. ■

In the rest of the country, gay parents lack the protections of marriage and civil unions, but they're increasing in number as the current "gayby boom" gathers momentum. The national gay advocacy group Human Rights Campaign estimates that between 1 and 3 million children in the United States have gay parents.

One case in Nebraska ended well for one couple after Serenna Russell won a notable custody case in June 2002. Russell had applied for joint custody with her former partner, Joan Bridgens. A lower court wouldn't honor the couple's coparent adoption agreement from Pennsylvania because Nebraska didn't offer coparent adoptions for same-sex couples. Ultimately, the courts reversed that ruling.

So far, gay couples in Virginia haven't fared as well. Virginia could become "the Las Vegas of gay divorces," as one attorney called it, if its state supreme court upholds an unusual lower court ruling. In that case, a Virginia judge granted self-described ex-lesbian Lisa Miller-Jenkins sole parental rights over the daughter she raised with partner Janet Miller-Jenkins on the basis that Virginia didn't recognize civil unions. Lisa is the child's birth mother, but when the couple lived in Vermont they had a civil union, which automatically granted Janet parental rights.

When the two dissolved their union, a Vermont court granted Janet visitation rights. But then Lisa took the child to Virginia. Using funds from an anti-gay marriage group—in a parallel of the Colorado case—she won sole custody. The case is currently on appeal.

"It's highly unusual for Virginia to do this," says Greg Nivens, a senior staff attorney at Lambda Legal's Atlanta office who is working with Janet on the case. "Congress passed the Parental

Kidnapping Prevention Act that stipulates whoever gets the custody determination first, that court keeps jurisdiction. Otherwise you encourage parents to take a kid to another state and try their luck there."

Nivens thinks his client and other nonbiological parents in Virginia and elsewhere will eventually gain firmer ground in custody battles. Lambda

Legal, for instance, recently filed a friend-of-the-court brief in a Virginia case that would put both same-sex parents' names on a birth certificate—a law that would give gay parents one more legal protection in that state. But no matter how many gay parents win in court, many will be hurt in the process, he says. "Above all, the laws are written so the court is supposed to do what's in the best interest of the child," Nivens says. "Even if Janet prevails in the

end, it'll be a long time before she can even see her daughter. Think how devastating this must be for the child and for the mother who helped raise her."

What's the surest footing for gay parents? Until courts fully recognize gay families, attorneys are scrambling to tell gay parents what legal steps they can take to provide at least some protection if they ever go through this process. "I tell my gay parent clients to write it all down," says Koenig. "Put together a parental agreement that spells out what everyone's role is in a child's life, including power of attorney. If you, unfortunately, split up, the court will have something that spells out what you originally intended."

Ultimately, most cases come down to gay parents who are willing to push courts to recognize their families. "My partner gets as many cards as I do on Father's Day," says McGriff. "The courts might not see us as a family, but the community that rallied around us and—most important—my children know in their hearts that we are." ■

Christensen is a producer for CNN.

**"All I want
in this world
is to have
my whole
family
together,"
says Idaho
gay dad
Theron
McGriff.**

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Full court press

George W. Bush has a very clear position on what makes good judges—and it's not a willingness to advance gay equality **BY SARAH WILDMAN**

By now it is apparent to most GLBT Americans that President George W. Bush will have massive power not only to appoint a new conservative Supreme Court chief justice but maybe up to four other new justices to the nation's highest court. Their conservative interpretation of the law will have a profound impact for decades to come, especially on marriage rights for same-sex couples and gay rights in the wake of the court's 2003 *Lawrence v. Texas* ruling, which overturned sodomy laws.

After all, at age 80, William Rehnquist is already one of the oldest and longest-serving chief justices in history. His recent diagnosis of thyroid cancer means that he almost surely will be the first justice to step down in 10 years. (As of press time he had not announced his plans.) Other justices are aging too: John Paul Stevens is in his 80s, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sandra Day O'Connor are in their 70s.

Since the 2000 election, Bush has maintained a very clear position on what kind of résumé that he believes makes for a good judicial candidate. He consistently declares a desire to nominate "strict constructionist" judges; that is, those who "will faithfully interpret the law, not legislate from the bench."

To gay rights groups, the terms "legislating from the bench" and "activist judges" are code for the type of decision that the Massachusetts supreme court handed down that legalized same-sex marriage in the state. Such decisions are virtually guaranteed not to come from nominees proposed by the Bush White House.

The president has long professed admiration for justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas—the two most conservative judges on the high court, both of whom dissented on *Lawrence v. Texas*.

Before we panic, there is some small solace: "If it is only Rehnquist," says Stephen Wermiel, a law professor at American University who specializes in the Supreme Court, "that may not make much difference." Rehnquist is himself a staunch conservative, so replacing him will not tip the close balance of the court. However, "if we get to the point that President Bush is replacing Sandra Day O'Connor or John Paul Stevens—then everything is in play, including, maybe, *Lawrence*," Wermiel adds. *Lawrence* was decided based on an interpretation of privacy laws that justices like Scalia don't subscribe to.

Wermiel cites Bush's November 4

victory speech, which eventually morphed into the phrase "I've earned political capital," he says. "I take that as [a nod that] the 'moral conservative right,' if you will, is going to be influencing Supreme Court nominations. There is no possible way that that is good news for the gay community."

Wermiel also notes that if moderate Republican senator Arlen Specter is named chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and if Democrats hold true to their word to filibuster any truly radically conservative judges, there will be at least a few checks on the extent of a conservative run on the court. Court watchers long believed that White House chief counsel Alberto Gonzales would be the Administration's first choice for a Supreme Court replacement. But with Gonzales's recent appointment to the attorney general cabi-



GETTY IMAGES



Supreme checkup

net post, a nomination that people on both sides of the aisle believe will be approved, it is unclear whether he has taken himself out of the running. Gonzales was considered too "moderate" by the standards of the new far-right influence in Washington.

Speculation is cheap these days as Bush prepares for a second term. Even Senator Specter's chairmanship was up in the air as of press time. The Pennsylvanian angered conservatives only days after the election when, at a news conference, he appeared to warn the president not to nominate judges who would promise to reverse *Roe v. Wade*. On the left, many hope that Specter's stated position, even if politically unsavvy, will hold true. ■

Wildman is The Advocate's Washington correspondent.

JUSTICE	AGE	APPOINTED	HEALTH
WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST (5) CHIEF JUSTICE	80	1972, Richard Nixon; AS CHIEF JUSTICE: 1986, Ronald Reagan	Undergoing treatment for thyroid cancer
JOHN PAUL STEVENS * (1)	84	1975, Gerald Ford	Treated for prostate cancer in 1992 and has battled heart disease
SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR * (7)	74	1981, Ronald Reagan	Successfully fought breast cancer diagnosed in 1988
ANTONIA O'CALLA (1)	68	1986, Ronald Reagan	Reported good health
ANTHONY M. KENNEDY * (9)	68	1988, Ronald Reagan	Reported good health
DAVID NECKTHER (1)	65	1990, George H.W. Bush	Reported good health
CLARENCE THOMAS (6)	56	1991, George H.W. Bush	Reported good health
RUTH BADER GINSBURG * (2)	71	1993, Bill Clinton	Successfully fought colon cancer in 2000
STEPHEN C. BREYER * (1)	66	1994, Bill Clinton	Reported good health

*** RULED IN FAVOR OF OVERTURNING ANTIGAY SODOMY LAWS
IN THE 2003 LAWRENCE V. TEXAS DECISION**



COMMUNITY

A phone call away

The only all-ages national help line for GLBT Americans is seeing an uptick in calls in the wake of George W. Bush's reelection **BY PAUL VANDECARR**

Shortly after Election Day, the Gay and Lesbian National Hotline received a call from a young man living in a state that had passed an anti-gay-marriage amendment. "Here's this person who is finally sticking his toes out of the closet a little bit, and then this hap-

pens," says the hotline's executive director, Brad Becker, who answered the call. "He just did not understand why he was being beaten up figuratively and whether these new laws might lead to him being beaten up literally."

The hotline has logged many similar calls since November 2. "I think the pas-

sage of these 11 anti-gay-marriage amendments highlights even further the need for the service we provide," says Becker. "It's a safe and supportive place for people to call and talk about the harsh realities they're facing every day, strictly confidentially."

The nonprofit service bills itself as the only all-ages national hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people wanting to talk about any issue relating to their sexuality. The toll-free line is staffed by 60 trained volunteers in San Francisco and New York City, a diverse group ranging in age from 18 to 80 who provide peer counseling and referrals to local services.

"Those of us who live in places like New York City get spoiled," says hotline volunteer Roger Ricklefs. "There are

endless resources here. That's not true everywhere. I got a call a while ago from a guy in rural Texas, and the closest group we could find for him that was at all relevant to his needs was 100 miles away."

Of the hotline's roughly 800 monthly calls, the majority are for peer counseling, and most of those are people dealing with coming-out or relationship issues. They come from an average of 45 states each month, many from the South and Midwest.

The volume of calls has also increased markedly in the last couple of years, partly due to the closure of local resources around the country. In 1995 the half dozen volunteers who went on to found the national hotline conducted a study that identified 150 local GLBT hotlines around the country. A repeat study earlier this year found only 100 left, and most of those were in larger cities. The national hotline is also forming a new program, the National Association of GLBT Hotlines, which will act as a clearinghouse for local lines around the country. Becker says, "Nothing replaces the benefit of being able to talk with someone right in your own neighborhood. The national hotline is there for callers across the country, even as we work to strengthen hotlines at the local level."

Hotline volunteer Ricklefs recalls a recent call from a high school student: "After a long conversation, he finally said, 'I'm gay.' And then he said, 'Hey! I actually said it. This is the first time I've said it!' It feels great to say this out loud." While the effect is therapeutic, the line is not meant to provide ongoing psychotherapy, nor is it a "chat line" or a sex line.

Ricklefs and fellow hotline volunteer Deborah Carroll recount other calls they've received: A very religious woman in the rural Midwest who, after being read a list of the gay and gay-friendly churches in Chicago, said, "That does it, I'm moving there"; a cross-dresser who was reassured to learn that many others shared his practice; a lesbian in despair over her partner leaving her—and whose mother eventually came in on the call. "It is such rewarding work," Carroll says. "I've been out since 1969, but I've still learned so much about our community from the hotline." Becker adds that almost all the volunteers "either remember how tough it was for them, or they feel



Trevor at six

Since 1998 sympathetic ears have worked the help line of the Trevor Project to try to prevent GLBT teen suicide **BY PAUL VANDECARR**

"Every night I felt I made a difference," says Diane McDonald, a former volunteer at the Trevor Project's help line. "I got a call from a guy in a bus station with a gun, threatening to kill himself. Or another one from a young man in a car, threatening to drive off the road. Then there were the more ordinary calls—kids who were confused or didn't know another gay person in the world and just needed a sympathetic ear."

One hundred sets of ears work the phones at this, the only national suicide prevention hotline aimed at gay, lesbian, bisexual,

transgender, and questioning youth that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days per year. The volunteers, including some who speak Spanish, take from the toll-free number as many as 2,000 calls per month, a substantial portion from the target population of under-24 LGBTQ youth.

The help line takes its name from a the 1994 Oscar-winning short film *Trevor*, about a teenage Diana Ross fan named Trevor who attempts suicide after being ostracized at school.

The *Trevor* filmmakers decided to use their 1998 national

HBO broadcast as a launchpad for a project to help real-life Trevors. The Trevor Project oversees the help line, which is managed by their partners at San Francisco Suicide Prevention; provides online resources and a teaching guide; and produces events and publicity to spread the word about the organization and suicide prevention. Executive director Jorge Valencia says the organization grows only in proportion to the need: "Our job is done when the phones stop ringing. Sadly, I don't think we'll see that happen for quite some time."

lucky for having had it relatively easy—and they want to give back."

For its minimal budget, the hotline relies almost exclusively on small donations from individuals, and it has never received government funding. That means the line is not restricted in the issues it addresses.

"For many of our callers, this is the first time they've ever spoken to anyone

about these issues. It's the first time they've spoken with an openly LGBTQ person. And it's the first time that anyone is going to tell them that their feelings are normal," says Becker. "We help people find a community that they didn't even know existed." ■

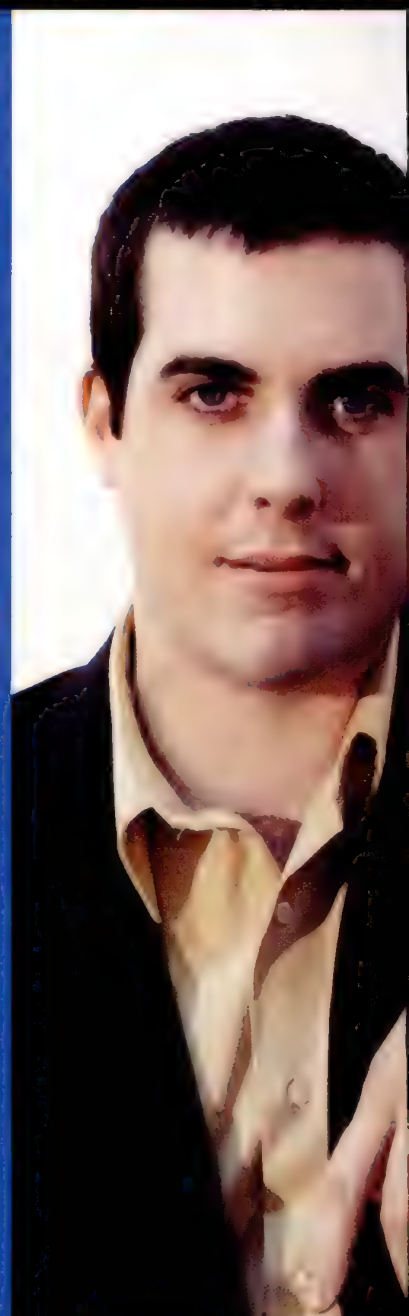
VanDeCarr is a freelance writer from San Francisco.



During a year in which marriage rights for gay and lesbian couples played a major role on the political stage, three mayors were willing to lead the way by taking risks and challenging the system

BY JOHN CALDWELL

NEWSOM: AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; WEST, SHIELDS: GIGI STOLL FOR THE ADVOCATE; GROOMING BY PIA



PEOPLE OF

Gavin Newsom
San Francisco

THE ADVOCATE | 34 | DECEMBER 21, 2004

Jason West
New Paltz, N.Y.

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The incredible scene of thousands of gay couples publicly celebrating their weddings at city halls and county courthouses across the country defined 2004 for many Americans as the year of same-sex marriage. There was a lot of laughter and tears; there were parties and there were protests. And it was all due in large part to the actions of some unlikely crusaders who took risks and challenged the system to do what they thought was right.

"You don't deny people their full rights," says San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom, who decided to issue marriage licenses to gay couples in response to President Bush's support of a constitutional ban on gay marriage during his State of the Union speech. "You don't deny people equal protection. That's my belief, and I can't fall short of that."

Newsom, 37, wasn't the only mayor who jeopardized his political career or even faced criminal charges for the advancement of marriage. Jason West, the 27-year-old mayor of New Paltz, N.Y., a small village about 75 miles north of Manhattan, soon followed Newsom's lead and married 25 gay couples before he was ordered to stop. And John Shields, the 61-year-old openly gay mayor of nearby Nyack, N.Y., with his partner, Bob Streams, joined nine other gay couples who are parties to a high-profile lawsuit to win the right to marry in New York State.

Meet *The Advocate's* 2004 people of the year: the mayors. Sounding and acting a lot more like gay rights activists than public servants, Newsom, West, and Shields share a similar passion for civil rights, valuing consistency and action. And all three reject the idea of civil unions as an unacceptable second-class status for gay Americans. During a one-month period in February and March they provided gay and lesbian couples with hope, security, and the chance to be a part of something they had long desired: the institution of marriage.

And they took heat for it. Some members of Newsom's own Democratic Party accused him of giving evangelicals a reason to go to the polls and thus costing John Kerry the presidential election. But the handsome and congenial mayor calmly shrugs that off. The state's constitution requires equality in marriage, and that's all that matters, he argues. Besides, he adds, Kerry lost because he wasn't a strong candidate. "Bill Clinton said it best years ago," Newsom says. "The American people always support strong and wrong versus weak and right. The Bush administration did an extraordinary job to make it appear that Kerry was weak. That is what swung this election, not the issue of gay marriage."

West agrees. "If you're always going to be afraid of a backlash, you're ►



John Shields
Nyack, N.Y.

THE YEAR

the mayors



Mayor Gavin Newsom stands between newlyweds Cissie Bonini (left) and Lora Pertle at San Francisco City Hall last February.

always going to be afraid to take action of any sort," he says. "Our opponents won. But it's not because of a backlash. It's because they outorganized us."

"Tell me a social issue where anybody ever said 'This is the right time?'" adds Shields. "They always cop out by saying this is *not* the right time. Kerry lost the election for a lot of reasons. And President Bush is the one who put this issue on the front burner."

Indeed, the marriage equality movement in 2004 wasn't limited to the actions of these three men. Massachusetts became the first state to begin providing full marriage rights to gay and lesbian couples, and same-sex marriage lawsuits began working their way through the courts in over a half-dozen other states. And there were victories for the other side, including the passage of 13 state constitutional bans on same-sex marriage.

It also was a year in which attitudes changed. The once-controversial notion of providing civil unions to gays suddenly became safe political ground for many politicians—even President Bush. And there were other marriage crusaders

who bear mention, including Sandoval County, N.M., clerk Victoria Dunlap and Multnomah County, Ore., commission chair Diane Linn—before being ordered to stop by courts, both risked their careers by issuing marriage licenses to gay couples. Chicago mayor Richard Daley expressed lukewarm support for same-sex marriage, even signing a petition to allow it before claiming he hadn't read it. And Seattle mayor Greg Nickels ordered recognition of gay city employees' marriages performed elsewhere.

But it was Newsom, West, and Shields who gained much of the media spotlight and who won the hearts and minds of gays and lesbians everywhere. "I think their actions will be judged by history as nothing but heroic," says Cheryl Jacques, executive director of the national gay rights group Human

Rights Campaign. "They helped many Americans take that giant leap forward of coming to the understanding that when gay and lesbian couples marry, it is no big deal."

That hero status, conferred on Newsom shortly after he launched his crusade on February 12, is something that he soundly rejects. Sitting in a small leather armchair inside his ornately appointed office, surrounded by photos of family and friends, including one of himself with former president Clinton, Newsom squeezes in an interview with *The Advocate* at the end of a long November day. He likes to gesture with his hands as he speaks softly about the need to do what he did. "I can assure you that I do not see myself as a hero," he says. "There's nothing heroic about doing the right thing. If there's something wrong,

Open here for a 10-issue history of past honorees



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

A close-up, low-angle shot of the front of a 2005 Subaru Outback XT. The car is heavily covered in mud and dirt, suggesting it has been driven in rough, off-road conditions. The headlights are turned on, casting a warm glow. The Subaru logo is visible on the front grille. The background is a clear, light blue sky.

NO PRIMING

The all-new, down with the dirty, 250-hp turbocharged
2005 Subaru Outback XT

December 18, 1990

Urvashi Vaid & Robert Mapplethorpe

Woman and Man of the Year

Our criterion was simple. What gay man and lesbian had the most influence on both the straight and gay community in 1990," *The Advocate* wrote in introducing its first Woman and Man of the Year. The woman selected was Urvashi Vaid, then the executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (and later an *Advocate* columnist and author of the groundbreaking book *Virtual Equality*). "When President George Bush was delivering his first major address on the AIDS crisis [that year], a diminutive lesbian bravely stood alone amid a large crowd...and held a placard reminding the president that what's needed to cure AIDS is money, not self-satisfied, self-congratulatory speeches." Meanwhile, in Cincinnati, the director of the Contemporary Arts Center was on trial for displaying the sexually charged photographs of gay artist Robert Mapplethorpe, who had died the year before. The trial focused attention on freedom of speech and on the beauty and fear surrounding gay sexuality—and led *The Advocate* to name Mapplethorpe its first Man of the Year. He was the first person to be honored posthumously, but he was not the last.

December 31, 1991

Dusty Pruitt & Roman Kalinin

Woman and Man of the Year

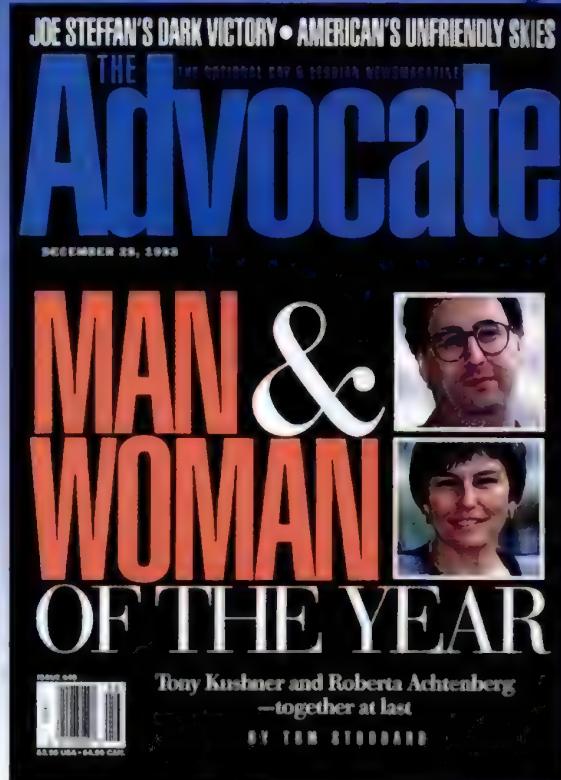
Dusty Pruitt fought for nearly a decade to end discrimination in the military. The activist and pastor was expelled from the military in 1985 after her superiors, in the early 1980s, discovered that she was a lesbian. Her case cycled through the legal system, and finally the ninth circuit court of appeals in San Francisco ruled that the military had to exhibit a sound basis for enforcing its antigay policies. Man of the Year Roman Kalinin, an activist and journalist, founded the Moscow Union of Lesbians and Gay Men as well as the gay newspaper *Tema*, which is slang for "queer." For years, especially as the U.S.S.R. was crumbling, he exhorted government officials to advance equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens. "Kalinin's leap out of the closet and onto the pages of the international media cleared the path for hundreds of thousands of Soviet lesbians and gay men to step out of the closet," *The Advocate* wrote.

December 29, 1992

Donna Red Wing & David Geffen

Woman and Man of the Year

Donna Red Wing, described by *The Advocate* as "one of the nation's leading lesbian activists and highly visible queers," was at the forefront of trying to defeat Oregon's infamous Measure 9, which sought to ban public schools from teaching anything related to "homosexuality and bisexuality in a manner that encourages, promotes, or sanctions such behaviors." The amendment was only narrowly rejected, and Red Wing knew there would be future battles for equality. "We have to address people's fear and ignorance about gays," she said. Hollywood mogul and billionaire David Geffen was honored for his "quiet philanthropic efforts," which included millions of dollars in donations to various GLBT and AIDS causes. "We are in a health crisis that is overwhelming whole populations of people across the planet, and yet we are still giving awards to people who simply do what they can to help," Geffen said.



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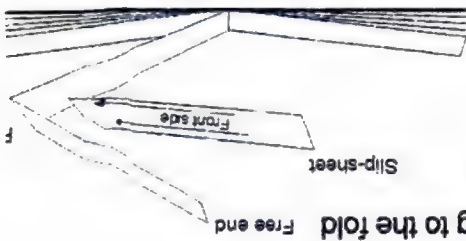
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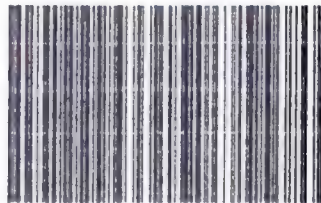
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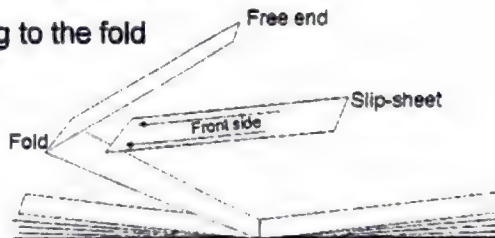
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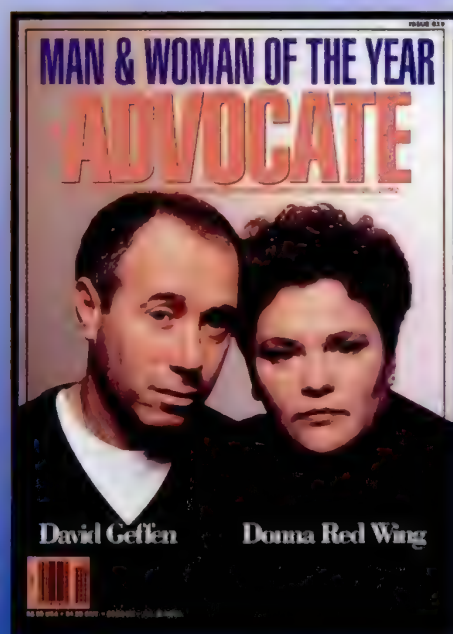
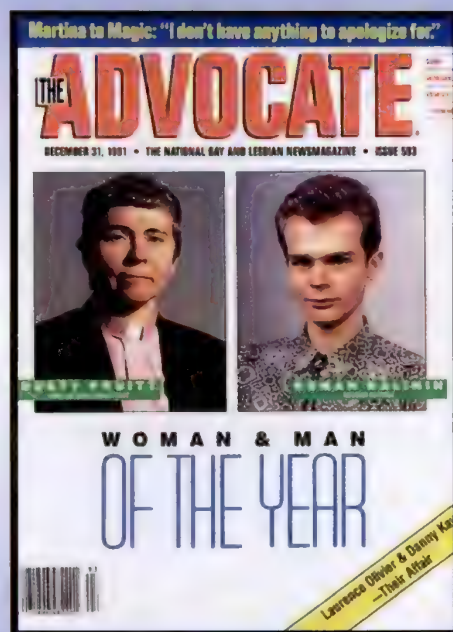
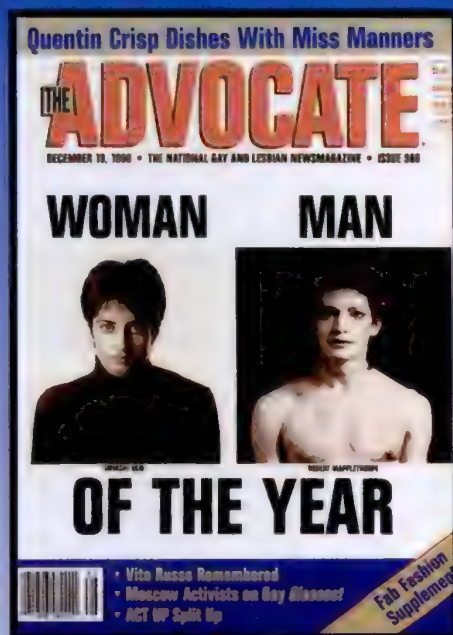




People of the year

A 10-ISSUE HISTORY

Since *The Advocate* first named People of the Year in 1990, the magazine has selected honorees 11 times, including the 2004 laureates in this issue. Some remain familiar names and faces; others you may not now remember. Gathered for the first time in one place, meet all of *The Advocate's* past People of the Year, and let us remind you why we selected them—and why one man declined the honor but appeared on the magazine's cover anyway.





PRIMPED OUT



The totally refined, exclusively designed
2005 Subaru Forester

Whisper," "Freedom," "Father Figure," and "Jesus to a Child." Happy to finally share the life he had to hide from millions of screaming teenage girls, George was, despite his own objections, *The Advocate's* pick for Person of the Year for 1998. But to honor his wishes, we didn't write those words anywhere in the issue.

January 22, 2002

Mark Bingham

Person of the Year

For the second time in *Advocate* history the magazine's Person of the Year was posthumously recognized. Mark Bingham died on 9/11 on United Airlines Flight 93. The openly gay founder of a high-tech PR firm in San Francisco was widely believed to have joined a number of others in confronting their hijackers and forcing the plane to crash in rural Pennsylvania before it could be crashed into the Capitol. Arizona senator John McCain credited Bingham and the others with saving his life. Described by friends, family, and former lovers as an outgoing person who knew what he wanted, Bingham helped start the San Francisco FOG rugby team in 2000 before it was accepted as a member of the Northern California Rugby Football Union. As Bingham wrote in an e-mail to friends, "We have a chance to be role models for other gay folks who wanted to play sports but never felt good enough or strong enough."

January 21, 2003

Rosie O'Donnell

Person of the Year

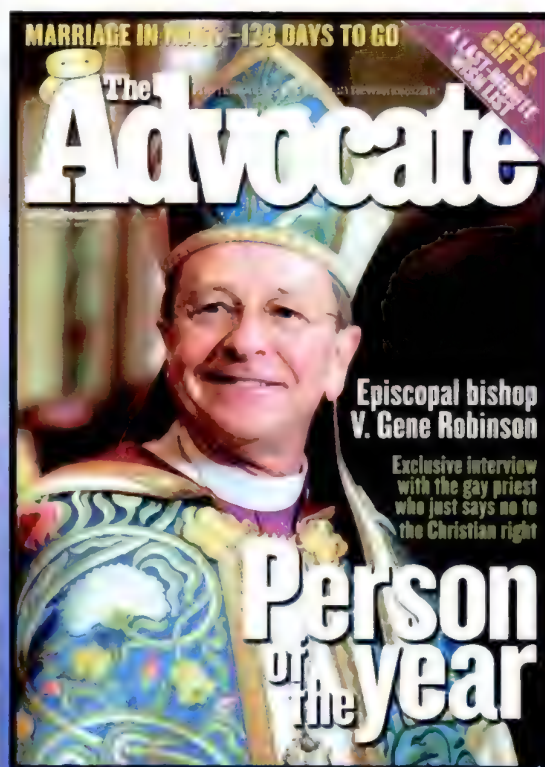
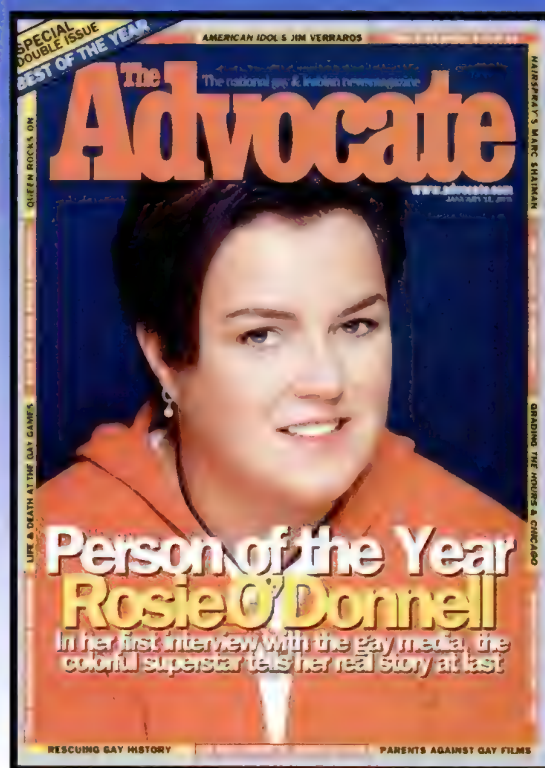
After retiring from her smash daytime talk show; coming out as a gay parent on national TV; and penning her memoir, *Find Me*, what was left for out superstar O'Donnell to say? Plenty. In her first interview with the gay media, O'Donnell talked about her joy in raising children with her partner Kelli, the childhood sadness that drove her into show business, and the flack she got from gay activists for all the years she spent being a famous face who had never officially come out of the closet. "The gay community needs to stop pointing fingers at their brothers and sisters and saying, 'Not gay enough,'" she said. "The best part about coming out was the weekend after. I went to the mall, and people nodded at me, they winked at me and gave me the thumbs-up, but they did not come over to me when I was with my children. That is a profound change. It was as if by saying, 'I am gay too'...it forced them to see me as a real, full person, three-dimensional."

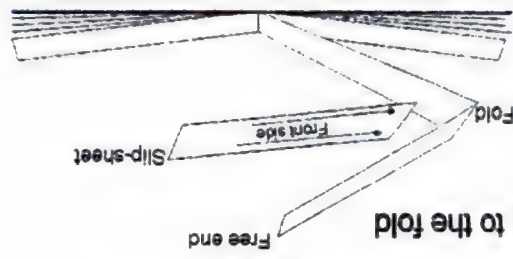
December 23, 2003

The Reverend V. Gene Robinson

Person of the Year

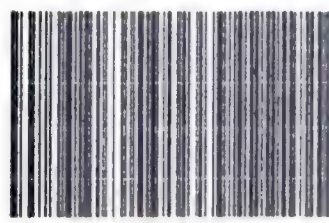
"At the root of all opposition to gay and lesbian rights lies religious conviction." That was the thought *The Advocate* used to explain its choice for Person of the Year for 2003. The Reverend V. Gene Robinson of the Episcopal diocese in New Hampshire had just been consecrated as the world's first openly gay bishop, setting a powerful precedent for the acceptance of gay and lesbian people into the church. Despite the threat of a church schism by those who opposed him, Robinson remained resolute. "I've never wavered in my understanding that God was calling me to do this," he said. "With every day that passes, and people see that life within their congregation hasn't changed because New Hampshire has a gay bishop, there will be fewer and fewer people interested in doing something about it."





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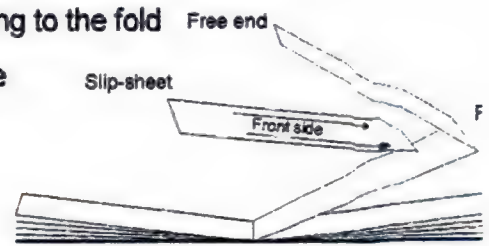
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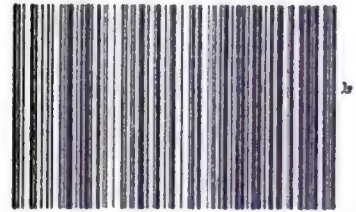
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December 28, 1993

Roberta Achtenberg & Tony Kushner

Woman and Man of the Year

The appointment of former San Francisco supervisor Roberta Achtenberg by President Clinton to a cabinet-level position in the Department of Housing and Urban Development prompted North Carolina senator Jesse Helms to call her a "damned lesbian." After high-profile confirmation hearings, the Senate OK'd her appointment. In May of the same year, Tony Kushner's play *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* finally opened on Broadway after triumphant productions in London, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. He soon became the first openly gay playwright to win the Pulitzer Prize. "I was shocked when the editor in chief of *The Advocate* called about this article," Kushner told the magazine, "because I always thought of myself as only a semisuccessful homosexual."

January 24, 1995

Roseanne

Person of the Year

Way before *Will & Grace*, Roseanne brought queer characters into prime time on her eponymous hit sitcom. "I like that the gay characters on my show are obnoxious," she said of the roles on *Roseanne* played by Martin Mull and Sandra Bernhard. "It's not because they're gay. They're just obnoxious!" Discussing her much-buzzed-about kiss with Mariel Hemingway on the show, Roseanne revealed, "[ABC] threatened to pull it. I called the [network's] president and said, 'I just have to tell you as a businesswoman that you have made this such a huge event, the show will probably get the biggest advertising fee in reruns and the biggest viewership of any show you're gonna do on Tuesday night this whole year. You'd be a fool not to capitalize on it at this point.' He relented. As soon as the network figures out there's money in it, they don't give a shit. It's not like anybody [in network TV] really has any integrity."

January 23, 1996

Melissa Etheridge

Person of the Year

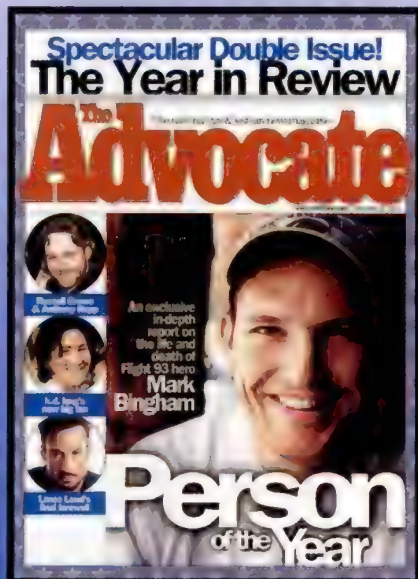
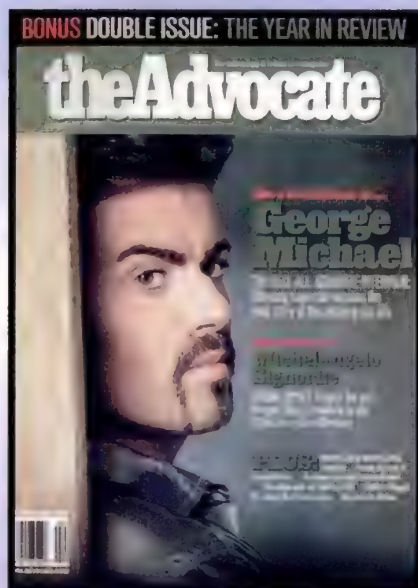
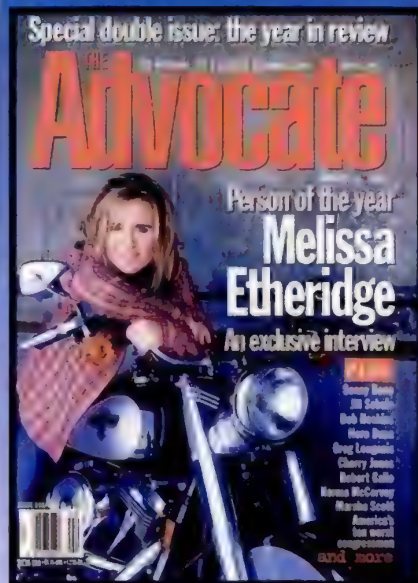
She had been out since January 1993, and this was her second cover story with *The Advocate*, but 1995 was the year we all knew it was going to be OK for rocker Melissa Etheridge—that the success of *Yes I Am* was not just a fluke. America dug Melissa as an out performer—in part because, as the magazine reported, her "exhilarating humanness...ultimately sets her apart." A previous Person of the Year also chimed in: "Melissa's one of the leading women in rock because she exudes such pure, unadulterated honesty," said out music mogul David Geffen. "She's a first-class rocker with a huge heart." This was the year that Etheridge settled into her new role as "a gay success story, a very inspirational one," she said. It was the year "I could really be 100% there for my success. I wasn't closeted and I didn't feel like there was stuff that wasn't being acknowledged."

January 19, 1999

George Michael

Declined to be Person of the Year

George Michael—who had never spoken to the American press as an out gay man before this interview—did not want *The Advocate* to call him Person of the Year. It was the end of 1998 and the 35-year-old pop superstar was still recovering from his April 7 arrest for lewd conduct in a Beverly Hills bathroom. Although he handled himself well, George felt that being forced "out" by such a publicly humiliating event was not something that should earn him a Person of the Year reward. "I want to talk to *The Advocate*," he said, "but I don't deserve awards this year." The interview itself revealed Michael to be a thoughtful and opinionated nonconformist. Years of painful identity struggles poured out of the man behind such unprecedented hits as "Careless





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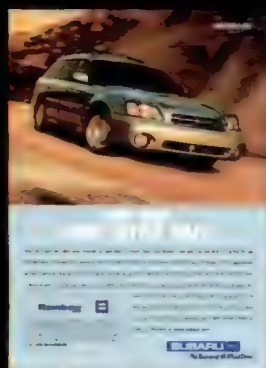
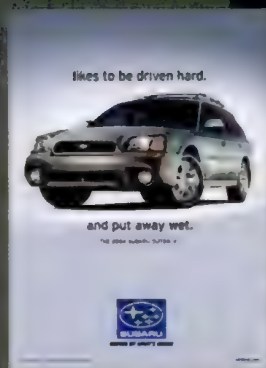
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we try to right it. It's simple. I don't see anything heroic about it. I see something purposeful about it. And appropriate."

Son of William Newsom, a well-known local judge, Gavin grew up in San Francisco and received a degree in political science at nearby Santa Clara University in 1989. He opened the city's popular PlumpJack Wine Shop in 1992, successfully expanding it to several locations and vending it to restaurants around the Bay Area. Prior to winning a tough campaign for mayor late last year,

Luther King. He reads books three or four times, and he jokes about how he likes to underline things and take notes."

Newsom values the city's reputation of inclusion and diversity, Dufty says, so he wasn't surprised when the mayor issued marriage licenses. "I see him as a real San Franciscan," Dufty says. "I think that's really central to who he is. I really believe he did it out of his core beliefs."

Newsom married noted legal analyst Kimberly Guilfoyle in 2001, an experience that he says gave him an added

short of the goal of gay marriage."

San Francisco's same-sex marriage licensing was shut down by the California supreme court on March 11. The court later ruled that Newsom lacked the authority to issue the licenses and invalidated all of them. Many of the married gay couples were crushed by the news, and a growing number of pundits and politicians, including Newsom himself, have since questioned his political future. "Anyone who ever wants to run against me will use this as an issue with

"Too many gay organizations are willing to concede on marriage. When they endorse John Kerry, who's opposed to gay marriage, that means they don't have a bottom line." —Jason West

Newsom was elected three times to the San Francisco board of supervisors beginning in 1996, during which time he befriended openly gay supervisor Bevan Dufty. "I have a tremendous amount of affection for the guy," says Dufty, 49, who describes himself as Newsom's "gay big brother." "He's an incredible student of government history and politics. He stymies me when he frequently can invoke Robert Kennedy or Martin

appreciation for what his gay friends didn't have. "My marriage is not a civil union," he says. "I don't want a civil union. I like marriage. We had a two-hour ceremony at the largest Catholic church in San Francisco. To have gone through that experience and to have enjoyed the social recognition, that says something about our commitment. That experience certainly affected me. And that's why I say we really can't fall

which they can divide and conquer," Newsom says. "I didn't do this to make a political career. I did this because it was the gift of a lifetime to be able to do what I thought was right—to be able to advance principles I believe in."

Lynn Vavreck, 36, an assistant political science professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, isn't convinced that what Newsom, West, or Shields did will cost them politically. "It's true that

most Americans are not in support of same-sex marriages," she says. "But I think it has a lot to do with how things are going in other areas [of their jobs]. It would surprise me that people would throw out a successful mayor on this one issue."

West, a member of the Green Party, says he isn't worried. In fact, some in his progressive college town have said that providing same-sex marriage may have actually cemented his political future, which West hopes will include a second term as mayor. An idealist who believes in holding politicians accountable, West, who is heterosexual, spent a lot of his interview with *The Advocate* talking about his disdain for a ►



New Paltz mayor Jason West (left) marries gay and lesbian couples inside Village Hall.

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Oregon's crusaders

Mayors weren't the only ones to bring hope and joy to the lives of thousands of gay couples this year. Several county commissioners in Portland are also being called heroes

The same day that San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom ordered city officials to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples last February, Roey Thorpe was on a conference call with other gay rights leaders discussing efforts to make the same thing happen in Portland, Ore. But it wasn't because of Newsom, she says. In light of the Massachusetts high court decision allowing same-sex marriage last year, Thorpe's group, Basic Rights Oregon, had been lobbying local county commissioners for months.

"We asked the commissioners to seek a legal opinion on the question of it being unconstitutional to deny marriage to same-sex couples [in Oregon]," Thorpe says. When Newsom began his marriage crusade, the Multnomah County officials watched with great interest, she says. But it was a pro-gay-marriage opinion from county attorney Agnes Sowle that caused them to act.

Risking their political careers, Diane Linn, Maria Rojo de Steffey, Serena Cruz, and Lisa Naito—four of the county's five commissioners, and all straight—ordered county clerks to begin issuing marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples on March 3. The move placed Oregon in the middle of 2004's dramatic marriage equality movement as thousands of couples lined up to get married in downtown Portland. Before a court halted the marriages in mid April, 3,022 received marriage licenses. Two of the four pro-marriage commissioners were up for reelection this year, and both won.

Several of the married same-sex couples joined a lawsuit, currently before the state supreme court, challenging Oregon to legalize same-sex marriage. But the state's newly passed constitutional ban on gay marriage complicates the case. "It certainly will limit the options of the court," Thorpe says, noting that the justices recently asked both sides to file a brief arguing the impact of the new ban on the case. A hearing is set for December 15. —John Caldwell

marriage equality movement that supports candidates who don't support full marriage rights. "Unfortunately, too many gay organizations are willing to concede," he says. "When they endorse John Kerry, who says he's opposed to gay marriage, that means they don't have a bottom line."

The soft-spoken West was born and raised in Latham, N.Y., near Albany. He became an activist at age 6 when he convinced his family not to eat at McDonald's because it used Styrofoam containers that he believed hurt the environment. "This is the type of person that Jason is," says his sister,

Amanda West, 25. "Even if it doesn't make a difference to a lot of people, it makes a difference to him. He's always been determined."

West graduated from the State University of New York at New Paltz in 1999 with degrees in art and history. He worked as a housepainter and a puppeteer in local theater for several years before becoming mayor of the small Hudson Valley village of about 6,000 in June 2003; it's a part-time position with a meager \$18,000 annual salary. He had long advocated for gays' right to marry, and when he decided to follow Newsom's lead at the end of February by

marrying same-sex couples, his job suddenly became full-time. West and a part-time staff of four worked 18-hour days seven days a week for about a month and a half, dealing with the couples, protests, gay rights groups, and the media. "I never expected that when I announced my intention to marry the couples, I would do something like nine drive-time interviews on radio [that first day]," West says. "Within several hours there were seven satellite trucks parked outside Village Hall."

After West spent one week marrying gay couples, an Ulster County judge ordered a stop to it, and New York State attorney general Eliot Spitzer later issued an opinion against West. Undaunted, more than 200 people from the area showed up to volunteer their services. Kay Greenleaf, a lesbian Unitarian Universalist minister from nearby Poughkeepsie, took over performance of the ceremonies. "It was an incredible relief," says West. "It brought tears to my eyes knowing that this was not going to die."

Those volunteers formed their own organization called the New Paltz Equality Initiative. They continue to marry gay couples, working with local clergy from about half a dozen denominations. Greenleaf, West, and another Unitarian minister, Dawn Sangrey, were charged in March with the crime of illegally "solemnizing" same-sex marriages. In an important legal victory for the marriage equality movement, a judge threw out the charges in July while sharply criticizing the state's same-sex marriage ban. In September another judge refused to invalidate what has become more than 200 marriages unless the plaintiff in the case, represented by the Jerry Falwell-connected Liberty Counsel, names all couples in the suit, which would allow each to argue their case in court. That hasn't happened.

"The statute in New York defines marriage as a contract between parties," West says. "There's no mention of man and woman. There's so much evidence that New York law allows this. This is the last piece that's missing. On everything else the [state] courts have ruled in favor of gays and lesbians."

Shields, a Democrat, was hoping the courts would see it that way when he joined the fray. Spurred by what Newsom and West were doing, he had announced plans to marry gay couples ►

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in his small village, which is about 25 miles north of New York City on the Hudson River. But Spitzer's opposition to West brought the threat of arrest, so Shields decided to take his fight to the courts. He formed what became known as the "Nyack 10," a group of gay couples who went to the county courthouse on March 4 and were de-

Rodriguez and others say they weren't surprised by Shields's marriage crusade; he's an idealistic man who has long supported social justice causes. "After I was elected mayor in 2001, I realized I could perform marriages but I couldn't marry my own partner," Shields says. "Then the president began to say he wanted a constitution-

West, who was voted one of America's "50 Hottest Bachelors" by *People* magazine in June, agrees that what he did was akin to helping black activists take a seat at a Woolworth's lunch counter in the 1960s. But it's a reluctant comparison. "My risk was so much less," he says, noting that he too doesn't feel comfortable being called a hero. "They were getting shot at and chased out of town. The only risk I took was a small political gamble." West has spent the last six months touring the country, speaking at gay events, and working on a book due out next year about democracy in America.

Still smarting from the election results, some politicians and gay rights leaders have been cautioning the marriage equality movement to slow down. It's advice that doesn't sit well with Newsom. "Why would you ever slow down on equality?" he asks, raising his voice for the first time during the interview. "Why would we ever not fight for our rights? How dare we suggest that someone who was born gay or lesbian or bisexual or transgender be part of a separate class that doesn't get full protection and equal rights? I totally dismiss that. We've made so much progress. Let's not stop here. Let's hold politicians accountable. We're not giving up. I'm not giving up."

That includes continuing to argue his case in court while publicly advocating for marriage equality, Newsom says. "I've seen a lot of minds change,"

he says, including that of his own conservative Irish Catholic father, who at first opposed Newsom's action but now agrees with it. "So many people didn't understand the significance of this until they experienced it in the newspapers and on TV. They watched sons and daughters weep as their mother got married to someone she's loved for 15 or 20 years. I'm very proud of that. I would never have wanted to deny that experience

to those couples and to the world. I believe so strongly in that. It's the right thing to do. And I believe that the supreme court in California will ultimately agree." ■



Openly gay Nyack mayor John D. Shields (left) holds a letter from the town clerk denying him, his partner, and other same-sex couples the right to marry.

nied marriage licenses. They sued the state, losing on appeal in October. "I felt disappointed," Shields says, noting that he plans to appeal the decision to the state's highest court. "The judge ruled on the case for political reasons. He released that decision 10 days before he ran for a judgeship in Rockland County. But that only made my resolve even stronger."

Born in Harrisburg, Pa., Shields joined the Army three years out of high school but was honorably discharged after eight weeks when he disclosed that he is gay. He moved to New York City, where he taught high school English for 30 years. Early on, he befriended Gloria Rodriguez, the now-56-year-old wife of a coworker who made Shields their son's godfather. "I like the idea that he stands up for equal rights," she says. "When you ask someone to be the godparent of your child, you want someone that your child can look up to. I see him as a leader."

al amendment, and Gavin Newsom and Jason West started to marry people. I'm doing this because it's the right thing to do. And the village has been so supportive. A local filmmaker even made a documentary about me called *The Mayor of Gomorrah*, which he shows in his coffee shop."

What Shields, West, and Newsom did will likely hold its own place in history, says UCLA's Vavreck. "During the civil rights movement African-Americans had to go to extreme measures outside of their jurisdictions to make change," she says. "In the South it was the local politicians who were opposing them. So this is really different. This is local politicians wanting to extend rights to a community that doesn't already have them."

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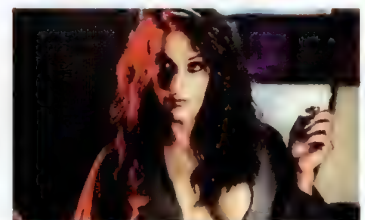
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Like Howard Dean and John Kerry, George W. Bush has come out in favor of same-sex civil unions. What that means, writes **ABNER MASON**, is that if we can work with the Administration instead of against it, the 2004 election could mark a turning point in acceptance of gay relationships

Why Bush's win is a victory for gays

According to political commentators, the 2004 election was a defeat for gay rights and a big win for cultural conservatives. The commentators are half right. Cultural conservatives did carry the day, but Americans who seek respect and equality for gay people also have reason to celebrate. By supporting civil unions for gay couples—which, practically speaking, is the cutting-edge issue in the battle for equality—President Bush has become a leading advocate for gay rights. In doing so and winning, he has made it a lot easier for others to recognize civil unions, especially political leaders in red states. If gays accept Bush's support and find ways to work with him, the 2004 election will mark a turning point in America's acceptance of gay relationships.

Not long ago, former Vermont governor Howard Dean was hailed as a hero on the cover of practically every gay magazine for signing legislation in 2000 establishing civil unions as a legal alternative to marriage for same-sex couples. In fact, much of the initial support for Dean's run for the presidency came from gay people and their supporters who saw Dean's support for civil unions as courageous. Social conservatives, who called civil unions "gay marriage with another name," reviled him.

Then in 2003 the Massachusetts supreme judicial court ruled that gay couples should have equal marriage rights and that *only* marriage—not civil unions—would be acceptable. The possibility that other states would have to recognize these Massachusetts marriages ignited a national debate on same-sex marriage.

Last February, Bush announced his support for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would ban same-sex marriage. His opponent in the 2004 election, John Kerry, announced that while he did not support the federal amendment, because it was unnecessary, he also opposed gay marriage and supported the rights of individual states to limit marriage to opposite-sex couples.

With few exceptions, most national political leaders have come out against same-sex marriage. And on November 2, when 11 states voted on adding gay marriage bans to their state constitutions, every ban passed by a wide margin.

It's now clear that we overreached with the push for gay marriage. The country is not ready for it. The Bush campaign knew this and effectively incorporated the gay marriage issue into its overall strategy to increase turnout by social conservatives. We can be angry with Bush—and Kerry as well—for not supporting gay marriage, but the country is with them.

That's why Bush's preelection statement on ABC's *Good Morning America* that he supports civil unions for gay couples was such a surprise.

While making clear his opposition to same-sex marriage, Bush said he disagreed with the Republican platform, which opposes civil unions.

This was a bizarre turn of events: Only eight days before the election, Bush publicly embraced the Dean position, which was also Kerry's position. The previously controversial—and in Dean's case "heroic"—position of supporting civil unions was now that of the conservative president. Gay activists should have seen this announcement and the president's subsequent victory as a major



BUSH: GETTY IMAGES; MASON: COURTESY LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS LOS ANGELES

breakthrough for gay rights in America. At a minimum, the president merited praise for his public recognition that gay relationships deserve respect and support. There was none. His announcement was met with deafening silence and, from some gay leaders, sharp criticism that condemned Bush's decision to back civil unions as a hollow attempt to attract gay and moderate voters.

People on the left, including most gay leaders, were so focused on helping Kerry that they could hardly afford to acknowledge that Bush had become a champion of sorts for gay rights—a politically risky move given his dependence on red-state America for support. At the same time, many social conservatives were angered by Bush's support for "gay marriage with another name," but most were reluctant to make too much of a fuss days before the election. Better to let the president win and then try to change his mind.

One interesting bit of campaign gossip helps to make the point. Bush campaign operatives tell me that in the afternoon on Election Day when the now-discredited early exit polls showed Bush losing to Kerry, the president's support for civil unions often came up as the reason his voters appeared not to be turning out as expected.

Gay voters clearly responded to the president's announcement: Final exit polls showed Bush getting nearly the same percentage of gay and lesbian votes this election (22%) as he did in 2000 (25%). Given the higher turnout, he actually received *more* total gay votes this election. For many gay voters, opposing same-sex marriage but supporting civil unions is an acceptable position—after all, it was John Kerry's position as well.

Gay and lesbian leaders, on the other hand, have yet to capitalize on Bush's victory. Their unwillingness even now to aggressively highlight Bush's support for civil unions has contributed to the portrayal of his reelection as an attack on gay and lesbian Americans, when in fact the opposite is true.

There are other policy areas of special interest to gays and lesbians where the president's reelection offers an opportunity for progress or the need for dialogue. Bush's commitment to providing support to people with HIV in America and around the world will carry over into his second term. On the domestic front, he has supported unprecedented levels of funding for treatment and initiated a new strategy to reduce new infections.

He also recently reiterated his support for the reauthorization of the Ryan White Act, which provides care for the poor and uninsured with HIV.

On the global front, the president's \$15 billion, five-year Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is the largest purely humanitarian relief effort in history. The \$2.4 billion that the United States will spend on AIDS worldwide in the plan's first year is more than the eight-year cumulative total spent during the Clinton administration.

One area where there is need for dialogue is judicial appointments. Gay people have nothing to fear from truly conservative judges who leave lawmaking to the legislative and executive branches. As we make progress in the culture, building support for gay equality—and we will—it is in our long-term interest to have judges who will leave their personal views on homosexuality at home and not attempt to make or undo laws based on their personal views. These are the kind of judges the president has promised to appoint, and we ought to work with him to make sure that is what happens. We should also keep in mind that in regard to gay equality, last year's decision on sodomy was the best ever handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court, and it was written by Justice Kennedy, a Reagan appointee.

With the election over, gay leaders should reach out to the president. It won't be easy, since none of the national gay groups endorsed him, and the antigay right is eager to claim him as theirs. Gay leaders owe it to the people they serve to find a way to make the next four years productive, and that requires working with the president. More than any other single issue, Bush's support for civil unions represents an opportunity the gay community should not pass up. I am not suggesting that anyone give up their support for same-sex marriage, but civil unions remain the most realistic next step for the gay rights movement. In pursuing that goal, we now have as an

ally the most popular man in red-state America. If our goal is to change minds and build support for our relationships where it is most lacking, we could hardly ask for a better partner than George W. Bush. ■

Mason is executive director of AIDS Responsibility Project and chairs the International Subcommittee for the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, to which he was appointed by President Bush in 2002.



Gay leaders owe it to the people they serve to find a way to make the next four years productive. Bush's support for civil unions represents an opportunity we should not pass up.

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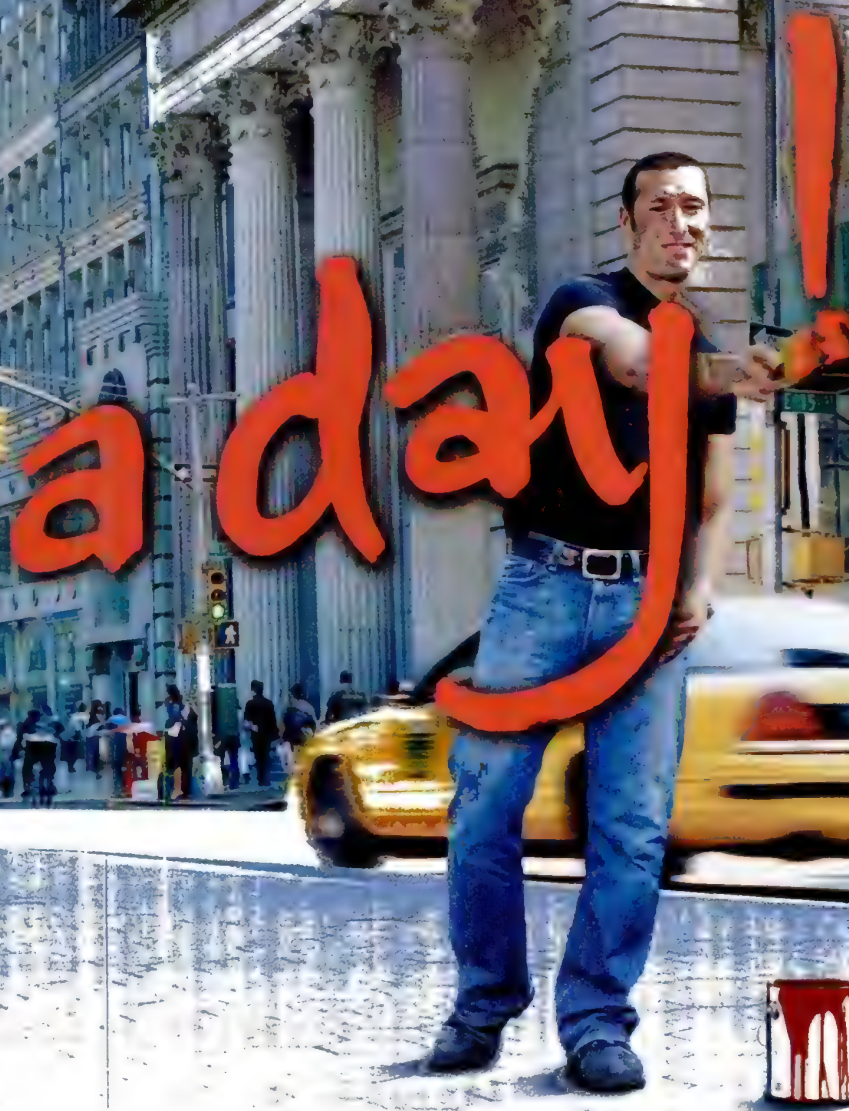
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What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?

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 - You have trouble breathing.
 - You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
 - You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
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 - You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Some people who have taken medicines like TRUVADA have developed serious liver problems called hepatotoxicity**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems.**
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 - Your urine turns dark.
 - Your bowel movements (stools) turn light in color.
 - You don't feel like eating food for several days or longer.
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 - You have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog medicines, like TRUVADA, for a long time.
- **TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus infection.** Patients infected with both Hepatitis B Virus and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) who take TRUVADA need close medical follow-up for several months after stopping treatment with TRUVADA. Follow-up includes medical exams and blood tests to check for Hepatitis B Virus that could be getting worse. **Patients with Hepatitis B Virus infection, who take TRUVADA and then stop it, may get "flare-ups" of their hepatitis. A "flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.**

What is TRUVADA?

TRUVADA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). TRUVADA contains 2 medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, or tenofovir DF) combined in one pill. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with HIV infection. TRUVADA is for adults age 18 and older. TRUVADA has not been studied in children under age 18 or adults over age 65.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

TRUVADA helps block HIV reverse transcriptase, a chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV to multiply. TRUVADA lowers the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). TRUVADA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4 cells). Lowering the amount of HIV in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

TRUVADA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of TRUVADA are not known at this time. People taking TRUVADA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infection. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking TRUVADA.**

TRUVADA does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take TRUVADA?

Do not take TRUVADA if you are allergic to TRUVADA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of TRUVADA are emtricitabine and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- **are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** We do not know if TRUVADA can harm your unborn child. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if TRUVADA is right for you. If you use TRUVADA while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can be on the TRUVADA Antiviral Pregnancy Registry.
- **are breast-feeding.** You should not breast feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing the HIV virus to your baby. Also, it is not known if TRUVADA can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- **have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.**
- **have bone problems.**
- **have liver problems including HBV infection.**
- **Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take**, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:
 - COMBIVIR®, EMTRIVA, EPIVIR®, EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM™, TRIZIVIR®, or VIREAD. **TRUVADA should not be used with those medicines.**
 - Drugs that contain didanosine (VIDEX®, VIDEX EC®). Tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) may increase the amount of VIDEX in your blood. **You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and VIDEX together.**
 - REYATAZ™ (atazanavir sulfate) or KALETRA® (lopinavir/ritonavir). These medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and REYATAZ or KALETRA together.

Keep a complete list of all the medicines that you take. Make a new list when medicines are added or stopped. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacist **every** time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription.

How should I take TRUVADA?

- Take TRUVADA exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed it. Follow the directions from your healthcare provider, exactly as written on the label.
- The usual dose of TRUVADA is 1 tablet once a day. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you have kidney problems, you may need to take TRUVADA less often.
- TRUVADA may be taken with or without a meal. Food does not affect how TRUVADA works. Take TRUVADA at the same time each day.
- If you forget to take TRUVADA, take it as soon as you remember that day. **Do not take more than 1 dose of TRUVADA in a day. Do not take 2 doses at the same time.** Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of TRUVADA or your anti-HIV medicines.**
- When your TRUVADA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to TRUVADA and become harder to treat.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking TRUVADA without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA.
- If you take too much TRUVADA, call your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

What should I avoid while taking TRUVADA?

- **Do not breast-feed.** See "What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?"
- **Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection** since TRUVADA doesn't stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.
 - **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
 - **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.**
 - **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- COMBIVIR, EMTRIVA, EPIVIR, EPIVIR-HBV, EPZICOM, TRIZIVIR, or VIREAD. **TRUVADA should not be used with these medicines.**

What are the possible side effects of TRUVADA?

TRUVADA may cause the following serious side effects (see "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?"):

- **Lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your doctor right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")
- **Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity)**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")
- **"Flare-ups" of Hepatitis B Virus infection**, in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you stop taking TRUVADA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping TRUVADA if you have both HIV and HBV infection. TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus infection.
- **Kidney problems.** If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys.
- **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA will cause damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare

provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density.

Other side effects with TRUVADA when used with other anti-HIV medicines include:

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking TRUVADA and other anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

The most common side effects of EMTRIVA or VIREAD when used with other anti-HIV medicines are: dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with TRUVADA.

These are not all the side effects of TRUVADA. This list of side effects with TRUVADA is **not complete** at this time because TRUVADA is still being studied. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider right away. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

How do I store TRUVADA?

- **Keep TRUVADA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**
- Store at room temperature up to 25°C (77°F).
- Keep TRUVADA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw away medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

General information about TRUVADA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use TRUVADA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give TRUVADA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about TRUVADA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about TRUVADA that is written for health professionals. For more information, you may also call 1-800-GILEAD-5 or access the TRUVADA website at www.TRUVADA.com.

Do not use TRUVADA if seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

What are the ingredients of TRUVADA?

Active Ingredients: emtricitabine and tenofovir DF

Inactive Ingredients: Croscarmellose sodium, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and pregelatinized starch (gluten free). The tablets are coated with Opadry II Light Blue Y-30-10671-A containing FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, titanium dioxide and triacetin.

Rx Only

August 2004

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We're still divine, darling



Friday, two weeks before the election, I was in the Atlanta airport boarding a flight to Salt Lake City to perform at the PFLAG National Conference. Hint: The Cheneys were not scheduled to appear. In fact, on a scale of 1 to PFLAG, the Cheneys are, to quote the Vice Cusser, "Go [expletive deleted] yourself."

I was sporting my JOHN KERRY: A STRONGER AMERICA button even though it had been deconstructed by the Swift Boat Type-Font Designers for Truth as clearly weak on defense. The plane was being boarded by zones—and I was beginning to think they were putting Kerry supporters in the ozone—when a couple came up to me, eyed my button, and without a "Hello, how are you?" intoned, "A vote for John Kerry will hasten the Second Coming."

For a moment I thought they were dissing the new boarding system—first class, second coming, etcetera. I said, "Excuse me?" They smiled and repeated their mantra slower and louder, and finally I heard them. In a moment I now believe was divinely inspired, I smiled and replied slowly and loudly, "Does that mean you will be leaving soon?"

Supposedly, 4 million Christian fundamentalists pulled the lever for W (stands for "war"). In those damnable exit polls they whined that liberals had made them feel guilty about their faith. They were not values voters but victim voters.

We all have our belief systems. I believe there was voter fraud. I also believe that all those anti-gay-marriage initiatives were used to get out the vote. We were so used: We were the wedgie, the butt-thong between

the cheek of church and the cheek of state. That's the bad news.

That a 35-year-old gay identity movement can threaten a 2005-year-old Christian identity movement is, I believe, the good news.

Besides the obvious protest strategies of not paying taxes, re-



fusing to sit on juries or serve in the military, caterwauling at family weddings, suing to get government-funded churches onto the tax rolls, snapping down our yoga mats and davening for democracy, or just starting impeachment proceedings on any number of grounds, I've got an idea. No, I'm not moving out of the country. I already live in the tiny island nation of New York City. Nor am I going on some four-year gay cruise setting sail down

the Potomac on January 19, 2005.

Since we are in the midst of a religious war tricked out as a cultural war, I want to do a religious reality show called *The Spirit Is Willing*, a weekly show on religion and sexuality. The GLBT community is a deeply spiritual community. After all, it takes quite a leap of faith to come out. Faith in ourselves, faith in others, in individual freedom, in divine justice. The set would have the familiar Christian broadcast look—gray industrial-carpeted stairs, large potted palms, and Lucite pulpits. But the message would be completely different. Topics would include "Gay Is Go-d," "Om Is Homo," and the Golden Lamé Rule.

We'd draw from our rich tradition of gay spiritual leaders, sing those old-time gay spirituals, feature a religion of the week—Islam, Buddhism, Wicca, Catholicism—and its position on gays. The show would have weekly features: a panel going soul to soul to counter antigay textual teachings; five minutes of world religion news—The Pope Watch; You Say Moola, I Say Mullah; The Jism Schism. Each week long lines of people would come forward to witness and

be welcomed and blessed as they come out—a little bop on the forehead to heal them from heterosexuality, and they would fall backward in the welcoming arms of other gay people. Our baptismal font will feature trendy Two Bunch Palms soaking salts.

I have pitched this idea to both Logo and Here. I dare them or any other of the triune networks to produce it. Forget the Second Coming; we need a Second Coming-out. ■

The GLBT community is deeply spiritual. After all, it takes quite a leap of faith to come out. Faith in ourselves, faith in others, faith in divine justice.

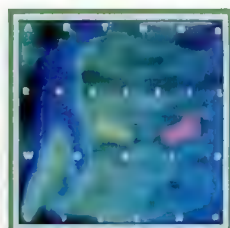
With parties to attend, cards to mail, and work deadlines to meet, who has time to shop? Our multiple-choice guide to easy-to-buy gifts can help make history of your holiday list



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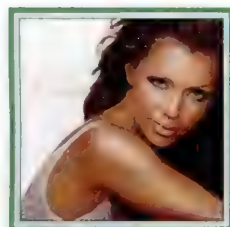
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(1) WITH THE LIGHTS OUT *Nirvana* (Geffen/UME) Courtney Love isn't the Grinch after all: The Nirvana box set, originally slated for 2001, is finally out. This three-CD, one-DVD set features tons of rarities, including covers of Led Zeppelin and Leadbelly and early versions of *Nevermind* faves.

(2) LIVE AND WELL *Dolly Parton* (Sugar Hill) The country lover in your life deserves better than a hard-candy Christmas. This career-spanning double CD, recorded live at Dollywood, is a cheeky marriage of glitzy showbiz with finger-pickin' bluegrass sass full of hits and surprises.

(3) WORLD OF ECHO *Arthur Russell* (Audika) Out New York City composer Russell (1952–1992) had one tapping foot in disco and the other in avant-garde classical. Originally released in 1986, this is his masterpiece, an aqueous concoction of introspective pop songs for voice and cello.

(4) THE FUTUREHEADS *The Futureheads* (Sire) Need a gift for your hipster compadre who's already worn out his or her Franz Ferdinand and Killers albums? This young British quartet fuses edgy postpunk with kinetic vocal interplay. Plus they cover Kate Bush!

(5) NICKY SIANO'S THE GALLERY *various artists* (Soul Jazz) Subtitled "The original New York Disco: '73–'77," this 17-song anthology, programmed by gay nightlife great Siano, exposes the roots of dance-floor culture with a stomping set of lesser-known funk, soul, gospel, and energetic R&B gems.

(6) MIND, BODY & SOUL *Joss Stone* (S-Curve) The ideal gateway CD for your tween-age niece who's ready to graduate beyond the Simpson sisters. The sophomore set from this young British singer adds some contemporary production touches without diluting her authentic '70s soul singing.

(7) TRUST NOT THOSE IN WHOM WITHOUT SOME TOUCH OF MADNESS *Thalia Zedek* (Thrill Jockey) The second solo full-length from lesbian punk-rock icon Zedek, formerly of the combos Come and Live Skull, trumps gloom-meister Leonard Cohen with its dark poetic lyrics, smoked-out vocals, and sparse chamber instrumentation. Bah-humbuggery never sounded so good.

(8) THE DITTY BOPS *The Ditty Bops* (Warner Bros.) L.A. duo the Ditty Bops accompany their gentle vocal harmonies with ukulele and toy piano. A nifty mix of vaudeville, cabaret, folk, and Western swing, their debut suggests a subtler, more whimsical incarnation of the Murmurs.

(9) SILVER & GOLD *Vanessa Williams* (Lava) A tasteful collection of holiday favorites, from a jazzy, playful take on "Winter Weather" to the spirited gospel of "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow." A welcome tonic to the seasonal excesses of Barbra, Patti, et al.

(10) MAYBE THIS CHRISTMAS TREE *various artists* (Nettwerk) Uncommon Christmas ditties updated by alt-rockers including Death Cab for Cutie, Ivy, the Raveonettes, Pedro the Lion, and even hip Christian foursome Jars of Clay. For the opening track, the Polyphonic Spree perform choral magic that shames even Phil Spector on John Lennon's "Happy Xmas (War Is Over)." —Kurt B. Reighley



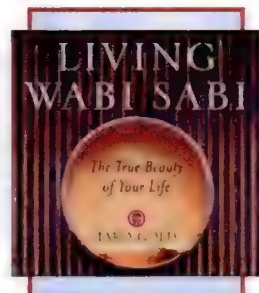
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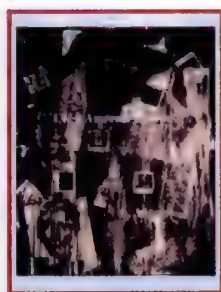
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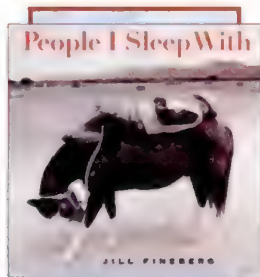
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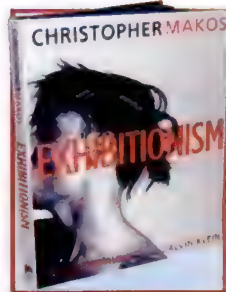
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(1) RICO PUHLMANN: A FASHION LEGACY, *with essays by William A. Ewing and Adelheid Rasche* (Merrell, \$59.95) If you love the '60s, get ready for an ecstatic experience. Puhlmann, the master photographer and illustrator who died on TWA Flight 800 in 1996, spent a career showing us why fashion is sublime.

(2) AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL, *Robert Sabuda* (Little Simon, \$26.95) Fuel your loved ones' gay patriotism with the latest masterpiece from the out king of pop-up books.

(3) HOCKNEY'S PICTURES: THE DEFINITIVE RETROSPECTIVE, *compilation and commentary by David Hockney* (Bulfinch, \$45) The more Hockney matures, the more modern his work. See for yourself with this sumptuous volume.

(4) PEOPLE I SLEEP WITH, *Jill Fineberg* (Ten Speed Press, \$19.95) Out photographer Fineberg photographs pets asleep with their people, for a series of images that capture the mutual vulnerability that makes our bonds with animals so strong.

(5) HIGH SCHOOL, *Jona Frank* (Arenas Street, \$35) Give young friends their props with these perceptive images of youths taken by California photographer Frank. In particular, check out the shot of Dustin in his American flag dress—he had to threaten his school with a lawsuit to wear it.

(6) IS YOUR CAT GAY? and IS YOUR DOG GAY? *Charles Kreloff & Patty Brown* (Simon & Schuster, \$11.95 each) The perfect giftoids for pals with furry children, these little books imagine pets as stereotypical gay men, with dozens of smile-inducing drawings by Victoria Roberts.

(7) LIVING WABI SABI: THE TRUE BEAUTY OF YOUR LIFE, *Taro Gold* (Andrews McMeel Publishing, \$10.95) If you're looking for stocking-stuffers with lasting value, check out the friendly, wise, pocket-size works of this out author (*Open Your Mind*, *Open Your Life*, *What Is Love*, *The Tao of Mom*). His latest reveals why what you think of as flaws are really what make your life rewarding and beautiful.

(8) PALM SPRINGS CONFIDENTIAL, *Howard Johns* (Barricade Books, \$35) In the tradition of *Hollywood Babylon* comes this riveting, nosy encyclopedia of desert gossip, with cameos by every GLBT visitor imaginable, from Liberace and Udo to Lily and Jane. Perfect for the trivia- or real estate-obsessed friend in your life.

(9) LYLE ASHTON HARRIS, *photographs by Harris; essay by Anna Deavere Smith* (Gregory R. Miller & Co., \$19.95) Harris's beautifully evocative monochromatic photographs are well-served here by a poetic, confessional essay about the artist by Smith, the very private *West Wing* actress and oral-history-as-theater pioneer.

(10) EXHIBITIONISM, *photographs by Christopher Makos; preface by Glenn Albin; foreword by Calvin Klein* (powerHouse Books, \$40) What do Makos, Klein, Albin, and the Abercrombie catalog subscriber in your life have in common? A keen eye for gorgeous young men, preferably nude and sepia-toned. Bonus: sleek shots of autos and airplanes, plus visual tips for manscaping. —Anne Stockwell and Bruce C. Steele



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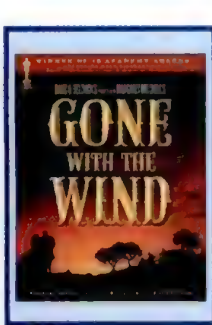
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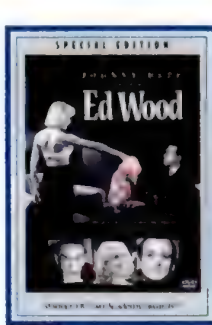
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(1) DOTTIE GETS SPANKED (Zeitgeist Video) Todd Haynes's lush but off-putting short makes the perfect gift for the art-film fan in your life. As a bonus, you get Mary Hestand's sublimely creepy *He Was Once*, a live-action *Davey and Goliath* parody.

(2) THE L WORD boxed set (Showtime Entertainment) The first season of Showtime's hit series gets the deluxe DVD package treatment, including behind-the-scenes glimpses of the show's production and fashions plus a puppet show by the cast. So good that even your male friends will appreciate this five-disc set in their stockings.

(3) DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS, MICHAEL, AND SEX IN CHAINS (Kino Video) These amazing gay-themed German films from the silent era are just the things for your nephew who thinks queer cinema started with *Jeffrey*. These fascinating historical documents capture gay life as it was lived and as it was presented on-screen.

(4) SUZANNE WESTENHOEFER: LIVE AT THE VILLAGE (Image Entertainment) Out comic Westenhoefer knocks 'em dead in her first concert DVD, culled from her hysterically funny 2003 stand-up show in Los Angeles. If you haven't seen Westenhoefer, get with it, girls. She's on fire.

(5) THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT! THE COMPLETE COLLECTION (Warner Home Video) The *That's Entertainment!* series collected the greatest moments from MGM's musicals, and now a new boxed set collects all three films for your favorite show-tunes queen. A fourth disc provides a whopping five-plus hours of material.

(6) GONE WITH THE WIND (Warner Home Video) Fiddle-dee-dee! So what if it's historically inaccurate? This immortal melodrama has never looked better, and the five hours of bonus footage includes a rare interview with Olivia de Havilland, Miss Melanie herself.

(7) ED WOOD (Touchstone Home Entertainment) Tim Burton's valentine to the cross-dressing director of the worst movies ever gets a special edition that includes four making-of featurettes and a commentary track.

(8) PEE-WEE'S PLAYHOUSE, VOLS. 1 AND 2 (Image Entertainment) The wait is over: Paul Reubens's masterpiece of kids' TV gets the full-on treatment, with 45 episodes—all the originals, plus eight never before released—on 10 discs. Scream real loud!

(9) ELLEN: THE COMPLETE SEASON ONE (A&E) Remember Ellen's sitcom before "The Puppy Episode"? When it was still called *These Friends of Mine*? Now you can relive the first year of her historic—and, not incidentally, very funny—show.

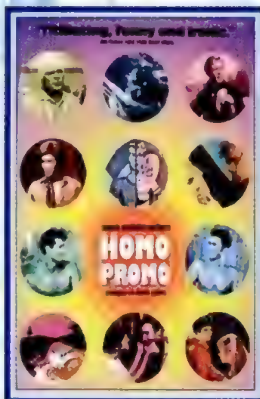
(10) THE WONG KAR-WAI COLLECTION (Kino Video) This box of five films from one of this generation's most exciting and provocative international filmmakers includes his acclaimed gay love story *Happy Together*, starring sexy Tony Leung (*Hero*) and the late Leslie Cheung. —Alonso Duralde and Anne Stockwell

A double feature for film buffs

For the movie fan in your life, film scholar Jenni Olson has a delightful double offering: **The Queer Movie Poster Book** (Chronicle Books), boasting a foreword by queer comedy's *capo di tutti capi* Bruce Vilanch, and **Homo Promo** (Strand Releasing), a DVD compilation of trailers of yore dealing with the love that dared not speak its name while also longing for its close-up. "I think the book and the DVD are each a wonderful introduction to the world of LGBT cinema," declares the San Francisco-based Olson. "The posters are so colorful, and the trailers are so dynamic; together they offer a wildly entertaining crash course in queer film history." And indeed they do. Leafing through the book, you'll find beautiful

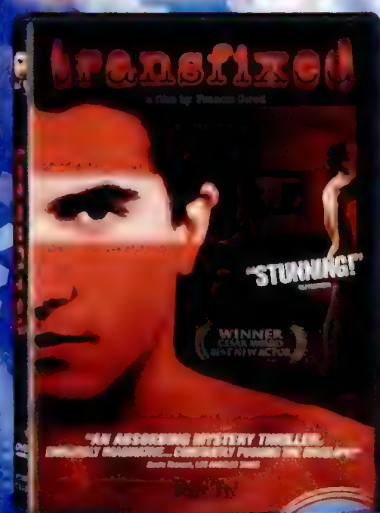
reproductions of poster art for such rarities as *Mädchen in Uniform*, *The Gay Deceivers*, and *Glen or Glenda?* right alongside classics like *Beautiful Thing* and *High Art*.

Picking up where the book leaves off, *Homo Promo* offers an impromptu crash course on the years before the "New Queer Cinema" of the 1990s changed everything. Trailers for such films as *Tea and Sympathy*, *The Children's Hour*, *The Killing of Sister George*, *Midnight Cowboy*, and *Death in Venice* are shown without commentary. After all, what can one say when the narrator of the trailer for the breakthrough British drama *Victim* asks, "What crime linked an aging hairdresser and a famous star of the theater?" Well, it certainly didn't involve *mousse*, dear. —David Ehrenstein



Not enough choices here? Want more Hollywood classics? Cartoons? Broadway? Find all this and more as the DVD Gift Guide continues at www.advocate.com.

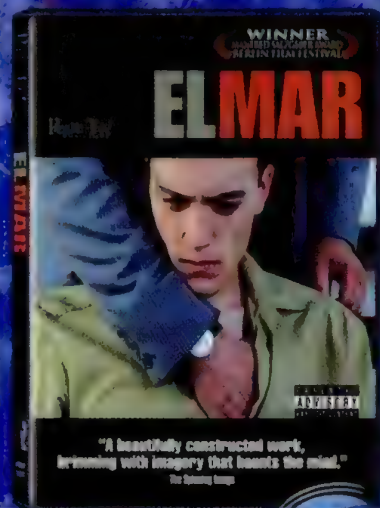
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dance

Bourne's supremacy

Exclusive: The outrageously entertaining choreographer who brought man-man love to *Swan Lake* talks about coming to America with his new *Nutcracker!* **By Joseph Carman**

Matthew Bourne snared American audiences nearly a decade ago with his radical *Swan Lake*, in which a chorus of steamy bare-torsoed swan hunks sent the prince into a fit of sexual hyperventilation. In December, Bourne brings his *Nutcracker!* to California (Los Angeles, Berkeley, and Orange County), while *Mary Poppins*, which he codirected with Cameron Mackintosh and choreographed, opens in London. In March his *Play Without Words* opens at New York's Brooklyn Academy of Music, and he has plans for a new *Edward Scissorhands* next year. In a gay-press exclusive interview, Bourne talked to *The Advocate* about Sweetieland, gay hotlines, and Barbra Streisand.

A quote from *The Daily Telegraph* in London says that *Nutcracker!* has an "Absolutely Fabulous sense of girly satire." How much of a gay sensibility is there?

Quite a lot! It's often described as camp. The second half is very pink, very Hollywood. Yes, of course it's got a gay sensibility. The people who made it are very much of that persuasion! [Laughs] I gave it a central story about orphans trying to break out of the orphanage—in a sense, breaking out into the world of fantasy. Clara and the boy who leads the rebellion break out into the land of snow, where they do a Sonja Henie ice-skating



Matthew Bourne
and his *Swan
Lake* (top)

dance—lots of fur-trimmed skirts. They go to the kingdom of the sweets: It's called Sweetieland; you are judged by how you taste rather than how you look. The waltz of the flowers is about all these people tasting each other—having a lick. It has sort of an underlying sexuality to it.

When you were a kid, what character did you want to be in *The Nutcracker*?

I didn't see *The Nutcracker* until I was 22. Julie Andrews was my idol when I was growing up. I used to kiss her picture on the cover of *The Sound of Music* album. I wanted to be the chil-

dren in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. I always wondered how you got those jobs.

With the new stage musical version of *Mary Poppins*, you seem to have figured it out.

[Laughs] That's right! I choreographed it and codirected it. It's not a version of the film—it's based more on the book—but it does use familiar songs along with the new ones. It's a lovely, lovely show. It's very much about the family and the bringing together of the family. It just opened in Bristol in England and opens in London in December. [If all goes well, it] will also be coming to the States. I hope to conquer the world with it after that.

In New York, *Swan Lake* was a huge artistic success with three Tony awards, but it wasn't a commercial success. Was there a lost opportunity to market it to a gay audience?

Yes, I think a lot of people spent a lot of time saying what it wasn't—"it's not a ballet," "it's not gay"—trying to please everyone. Cameron Mackintosh, the most famous person attached



TOP: BILL COOPER; BOURNE: COURTESY MATTHEW BOURNE

to it when we did it, was doing all these interviews saying, "I hate ballet. This isn't a ballet. It's a musical." The response from a lot of critics was "Dear Mr. Mackintosh, this is a ballet, actually. It's got no songs in it." In a sense, that worked against it. It needed people to say the opposite: "You might think this is ballet, but actually, if you love musicals or film, you'll probably love this show."

Your work has been called controversial. Is that something you like?

I don't like to shock people. And I'm often described that way: "the bad boy of ballet" or "the Damien Hirst [a British installation artist] of ballet." It's ridiculous, really. Because deep down I'm very audience-conscious and I try to make it work for everyone. A lot of people think you need prior knowledge when you come to see dance. It puts people off. For the vast majority of people, what I'm trying to do is tell a story where you don't need to know anything beforehand.

Play Without Words hits New York in March. Could you tell us about the piece?

Trevor Nunn, the [1997–2003 artistic] director of the National Theatre [in London], asked me to do something. I just said, "Why don't I try to do a play without words?" And he wrote down *Play Without Words* on his sheet of paper. That became the title. I was interested in a film called *The Servant* with Dirk Bogarde. It's about a young wealthy guy who buys a new house and hires a manservant to look after him. It's about the servant's corruption of the master and the switching of roles. It's got an intense homoerotic feel about it—the servant-and-master relationship. I saw it when I was 13 and it excited me quite a lot. I knew exactly what was going on. It's one of those films where the conversation may be about one thing, but what they're actually doing physically—the way they're looking at each other—tells you something else. It's perfect for a nonverbal dance piece.

You were 22 years old when you started ballet. How difficult was that?

Coming to it late, I felt there was an advantage to being a dancer and choreographer, because I already had

other interests. I had come out. I had lived a bit, had a lot of boyfriends. I had something to say, ideas about the work I was doing. I was really passionate about it.

Is it true you came out at 18 when you saw a gay hotline number on a record jacket?

It was [out '70s British punk rocker] Tom Robinson's single "Glad to Be Gay." The number was on the sleeve. I called it. They gave me the number of this gay teenage group. I phoned them up, and they said they met on Sundays on Holloway Road in north London, above a shop. I went there and walked up and down several times, not realizing that everyone was staring at me from above. As soon as I got up there I was pounced on. I became quickly like that within a few weeks—peering out the window, [watching] who was walking up and down about to come in. It was such a wonderful experience at the time. I made lots of friends. At 18, I became one of the founding members of the gay club Heaven in 1978, where I used to run into Boy George and [fellow British drag star] Marilyn.

How long have you been with your partner, Arthur Pita?

We've been together eight years. We met during *Swan Lake*. He was a dancer in the show. He's choreographing now.

The celebrities love you, don't they?

That's why I love coming to L.A.! Barbra Streisand was the biggest surprise, in a way, because she was so nice to the company. The guys in the ensemble dressing room were excited because they knew she was coming, and they were playing Barbra in the dressing room, singing "Don't Rain on My Parade." They didn't know that Barbra had come backstage to use the ladies' room. While they were all singing, she opened the door, stuck her head in, and said "Hi, guys!" They were so shocked. She stayed behind at the end of the show and talked to the company for at least 45 minutes and then invited me over to her Malibu house. ■

Carman is the coauthor of Round About the Ballet, recently published by Limelight Editions.

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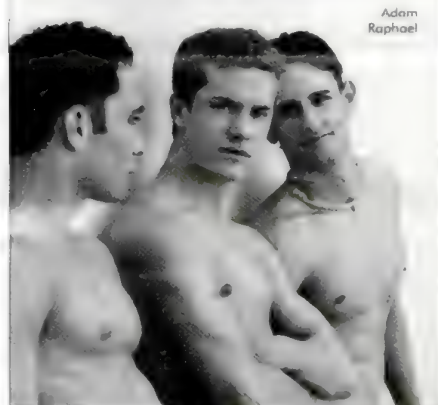
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FRIENDS & BROTHERS



film review

Alexan-dreck

Oliver Stone's *Alexander* may be bi-inclusive, but it's still a staggering disaster **By Alonso Duralde**

Alexander ■ Written by Oliver Stone, Christopher Kyle, and Laeta Kalogridis
 ■ Directed by Oliver Stone ■ Starring Colin Farrell, Angelina Jolie, Val Kilmer, Anthony Hopkins ■ Warner Bros.

Alas, *Alexander* is anything but great. Were it to contain a few more dance numbers (the film already has two) or a few more unintentional laughs (the film already has several), Stone's portrait of the 25-year-old who conquered the known world might at least rank as a camp classic. As it is, gay audiences will probably remember the film most for a line of Anthony Hopkins's narration following a boyhood wrestling match where Hephaestion bested Alexander: "It was said later that Alexander was never beaten, except by Hephaestion's thighs." Yow!

Pity poor Hopkins, who as Ptolemy is given pages and pages and pages of exposition to fill in the many dead spaces of the film—one wonders how

much of this narration was cooked up in the editing room to patch over scenes that had to be rejected. If you've ever thought to yourself, *Anthony Hopkins is such a great actor, I'd listen to him read the phone book*, here's your chance.

For the last few years, queer pundits and critics wondered how gay *Alexander* would be. The answer is: gayer than you'd imagine for a big Hollywood action epic. Alexander and lifelong pal Hephaestion (Jared Leto) make a lot of goo-goo eyes at each other and talk a lot about the love of warriors Achilles and Patroclus. (Since that love was left out of the Brad Pitt version of Greek history earlier this year, *Alexander* at least scores points on the "Eat it, *Troy!*" scale.) While Alexander marries and beds the fiery Roxane (Rosario Dawson), he's soon leaving her to sleep alone while he spends nights with Persian eunuch Bagoas (Francisco Bosch), whom Alexander later kisses in front of his

officers after the eunuch performs a particularly erotic dance. It's worth noting that the one ass shot we get from Farrell comes when he's in bed with Bosch rather than with Dawson.

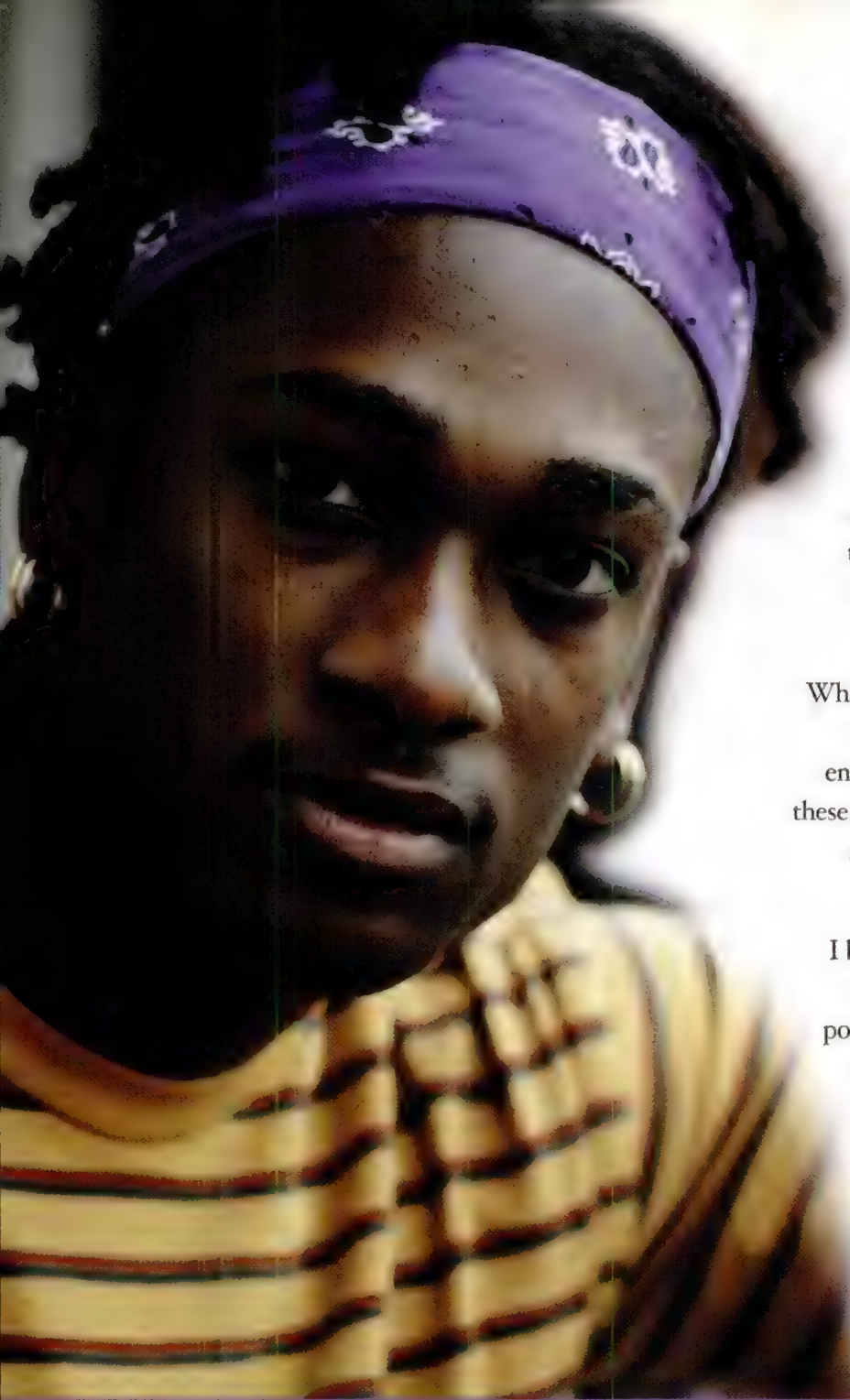
So *Alexander* doesn't shy away from the story's queer content. It's still a mess. Most of the hero's Great-ness takes place offscreen, although we do get two battle sequences that are gory and incomprehensible in the way that only Oliver Stone can do.

The actors don't help much by presenting a crazy sea of accents: Farrell tones down his normal Irish brogue, but Leto speaks like he's in a movie about the IRA and "the troubles." (He also sports eyeliner and floppy hair in one scene that make him a double for Avril Lavigne.) Val Kilmer, hamming it up madly, also serves up a faint taste of Lucky Charms. The flat-out worst performance has to be Angelina Jolie's, as she vamps around handling snakes and speaking in a Russian accent that's pure Natasha of *Rocky and Bullwinkle*. Maybe she thought this was a movie about *Catherine the Great*.

While it's worth applauding *Alexander* for not making its legendary hero 100% hetero, there's nothing else to recommend about this stilted, tedious epic. Instead of asking "Will it be gay enough?" perhaps the gay media should have been asking "Will it be any good?"

If you're interested in the life story of a bisexual who changed history, check out *Kinsey*; if you want to see an exciting movie about heroism, go see *The Incredibles*. And for campy chuckles, there's always that *Showgirls* VIP Edition box set. ■





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television

The man behind the *Housewives*

How out creator Marc Cherry's insight into *Desperate* living led to one of TV's biggest hits **By Mike Goodridge**

Television shows revolving around four women have been a staple of Marc Cherry's career. He was Dixie Carter's personal assistant on *Designing Women*; he wrote for *The Golden Girls* during the final two seasons of that classic comedy; and he was executive producer on the 1994–1995 sitcom *The Five Mrs. Buchanans*, which was about a quartet of wives and one fearsome mother-in-law. All that pales next to his current success as creator and

executive producer of ABC's Sunday night phenomenon *Desperate Housewives*. "There's something about a group of women doing insane things that appeals to me," he notes, laughing. "I am fascinated by them."

The openly gay Cherry says he connects with female characters more than with male. "I had a close relationship with my mother and my two sisters, and I have a lot of female friends," he says. "I like and understand women. I don't know if it's a gay thing or not."



Cherry (inset) and (above, clockwise from left) Marcia Cross, Teri Hatcher, Felicity Huffman, Longoria

Eva Longoria, who plays the frustrated Gabrielle Solis on *Housewives*, thinks it is. "Absolutely," she says. "He has a feminine quality that comes through in the writing that just wouldn't come through with a straight writer. He really hit the nail on the head when he wrote these women, because even though the situations are heightened, women can relate to them. When we went on *Oprah*, every single woman in the audience said that they had been through similar situations; they had been that miserable."

It's not the first time that a show created by a gay man has hit a nerve in mainstream culture—and about 40% of the *Desperate Housewives* audience is male, indicating that it's not just a femme favorite. "I wanted to combine the tonalities of *Sex and the City* and

Six Feet Under," says Cherry, "but also wanted to return to the roots of TV soap opera, which is ordinary people and their problems. It's *Peyton Place* with a kind of hip tonality."

So why are gay men so good at these cutting-edge shows? "You have to be smarter when you write for gay people, and I say that because I'm writing for myself," he says. "Also, when you grow up gay, you're outside the mainstream and have a different take on the world. That's why gay artists have had such a powerful influence on popular culture—because they are willing to go to different places and face brave new worlds."

Despite its fervent queer following, Cherry says, there were virtually no gay men on the writing staff of *The Golden Girls*. "There was [James] Berg and [Stan] Zimmerman on season 2, and then [writing partner] Jamie [Wooten] and I came in on season 5," he recalls. "I remember our first day at lunch with all the writers, and they started to talk about their favorite boxing matches ever. It was so macho, and we were expecting a gay old time. I think actually that's why it worked. The women's attitudes were so hard-edged because these straight macho guys were writing their lines, and then the lines were coming out of Bea Arthur's mouth. It came out gay."

Arthur herself has nothing but compliments for Cherry, who she says was "an important part of *The Golden Girls*." "The scripts he and Jamie wrote were unusual and delicious," she says. "I remember one of the shows that they wrote, Blanche took me to a nightclub called the Rusty Anchor, and she ends up singing and sitting on a guy's knee. She says, 'Is that a gun in your pocket, or are you just glad to see me?' He pulls out a gun."

Ten years after *The Golden Girls*, Cherry tackled gay characters on the short-lived CBS sitcom *Some of My Best Friends*, a spin-off of the movie *Kiss Me, Guido*. But he remains mysterious about any future gay story lines or characters on *Desperate Housewives*. "Maybe we'll have a gay character," he hints with an enigmatic smile. "Maybe one's already there." ■

Goodridge is U.S. editor of Screen International.

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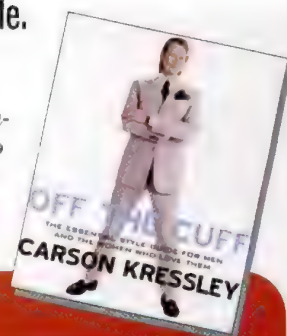
television

Queer Eye for the Santa guy

Just because St. Nick's a few hundred years old is no reason for him to be unfashionable. **Carson Kressley** says it's time Santa donned some gay apparel

You know we love you, Santa, but isn't it time to update that look a little? Your friends at *The Advocate* have submitted you for a makeover session with the one and only Carson Kressley, *Queer Eye* clothier extraordinaire and

author of the new book *Off the Cuff: The Essential Style Guide for Men and the Women Who Love Them* (Dutton, \$24.95). Here are Carson's ideas to freshen up that old Santa suit and the Jolly Old Elf underneath.



Wardrobe

HAT: I think a skullcap would be sexy—maybe black Prada with a little touch of red for tradition's sake.

COAT: A sleek and sexy ski jacket would look better (and will be much warmer) than that tired old velvet. It's Christmas, not a weekend in Vegas. Again, black is always chic!

PANTS: Snowboard pants are much more modern. This is what all the cool Santas are wearing.

BELT: OK, I love a big... belt. Keep the belt.

BOOTS: Black nylon. Maybe some Gore-Tex thrown in for practicality. Oh, and lose the fur trim. There's nothing jolly about dead animals.

Grooming

BEARD: Manscape that thing to human proportions. Close-cropped like Bah's hubby, James Brolin.

EYEBROWS: Last I looked, they were like Andy Rooney's on *60 Minutes*. No wonder kids scream when they sit on his lap. Remember, there is an s in eyebrows!

GIRTH: He's Santa, after all. Too buff or skinny would be wrong, wrong, wrong. He could switch to a light beer and maybe do Atkins for a couple of months. But dressing all in black is sleek and slimming! ■

Kressley is the fashion savant on Queer Eye for the Straight Guy (Bravo).



• Old Santa •



• Fab Santa •

t e l e v i s i o n

Pink Christmas

With *Too Cool for Christmas*, Here TV expands the idea of what makes a "family" holiday movie and gives jolly old St. Nick a makeover of its own **By Mike Goodridge**

The first original movie produced to air on gay and lesbian premium cable network Here TV, *Too Cool for Christmas* is a rare TV movie in that it features key gay characters without making their sexuality the main issue. *Too Cool* is a holiday special about superficial teenage girl Lindsay (Brooke Nevin), who is planning to skip out on her parents—two gay men, played by Barclay Hope and Adam Harrington—over Christmas. But when she develops a friendship with the real Santa Claus (George Hamilton—who was, alas, not available to comment) and helps him change his image, she learns the value of family and giving.

It was a traditional straight holiday movie when director Sam Irvin read it, until Here TV president Paul Colichman suggested that Lindsay's parents be two dads. "The idea was to make it very matter-of-fact," said Irvin. "We didn't have to change a single word of dialogue, and it worked like a charm."

"Families in the gay community can enjoy this story, and it's important to have a film where little boys and girls can see that it's normal to have two guys as parents," adds Colichman.

Ironically, for all the gay elements in *Too Cool*, a straight version was shot at the same time as the gay version. "We shot a straight version with a mom and a dad for the foreign market," explains Colichman, "but I am happy to say that



Mills (left) and Hamilton, pre- and post-Christmas makeover



most international territories have opted to buy the gay version."

The film attracted its fair share of mainstream talent, including Hamilton and TV stalwart Donna Mills, who shot a day's work for a cameo as Santa's wife, Mrs. Claus. "Because I have a 10-year-old girl, I wasn't anxious to go to Canada to shoot a movie, but this was such a charming script that I couldn't say no," she says. "We have a couple of lesbian couples with kids at my daughter's school, and I know some gay male parents through the business, and I see a great deal of commitment in them."

Meanwhile, Irvin is already onto his next Here movie: *Deadly Skies*, an asteroid disaster movie in which one of the chief characters is a gay ex-military man who is involved in the race to stop the collision. His lover in the script is still in the military and joins the mission to destroy the asteroid. "He's our gay action hero," says Irvin. ■



And the livin' is easy: Following her triumph in the third season of *American Idol*, Fantasia strikes out on her own with a new CD.

music

Fantasia 2004

The newest *American Idol* talks about gay fans and family, her new CD, and being a single mom **By Q. Allan Brocka**

Perhaps the most important election this year was held in May, when single mother Fantasia Barrino was chosen as this year's *American Idol* on the popular Fox show. *American Idol* judge Simon Cowell likened her voice to Donald Duck's, but Americans, and eventually even Simon, were won over by her distinctive singing and positive attitude. After an all-nighter in the recording studio, Fantasia—now 20 and working the single name—took a few moments to catch up with *The Advocate* and talk about her debut CD, *Free Yourself* (J/19/BMG).



Can you talk about working with Missy Elliott on your new album?

I love Missy Elliott...she is the best. She just reminds me of somebody back home, you know? Somebody that you hang out with every day and go chilling with. She'd crack jokes, crack on me, and I'd just be wowing out in the booth. I love her. She does it all—sings, raps, she does it all.

Tell us about your decision to be out about being a single mom.

I had a child to take care of. She needed things—clothes, you know. To be real with you, this ain't no fairy-tale life.

I had to go out to get it. So I said I'm just going to stand up for all those young mothers out there. I have a song on my album that's titled "Baby Mama," about how we struggle from day to day so that that child will have.

What are your thoughts on gay marriage?

[Laughs] I don't really think about that often. My godmother is gay and she is married to a woman, and that's her business. That's her prerogative. When I come to Atlanta I hang with them and just chill out. But what they do is their business. See, I love her. I accept whatever she wants to do.

Do you have something that you want to say to your gay and lesbian fans?

Keep on dancing. I was in the club the other day with my family, and there were some gay guys in there dancing, and I wouldn't even get out on the floor. I was like, good God Almighty! I can't get with them. So y'all keep on dancing, and I love y'all. I'll see you guys. ■

Brocka is the writer-director of Eating Out, coming to theaters in March.



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book review

Locas forever

Their punk romance ignited the famed comic series *Love and Rockets*. Now Maggie and Hopey get a book all their own

Locas: The Maggie and Hopey Stories ■ By Jaime Hernandez
■ Fantagraphics ■ \$49.95

Los Bros Hernandez's *Love and Rockets* comic series (1981-1996; 2000-present) was groundbreaking in three ways: It was the first mainstream comic to deal with Latinos and Latinas. It dealt with gay, bi, and lesbian characters as people—homosexuality wasn't the focus, but many characters were gay. Finally, it was a compassionate punk-rock soap opera closer to Latin American magical realism than to standard comic fare.

Jaime Hernandez's *Locas* follows one thread of the *Love and Rockets* series: the

story of Maggie and Hopey, two punk Latinas—best friends and lovers—from their late teens to early middle age. Bass player Hopey is one of the more lovable comic characters of the '80s. Maggie, a bisexual girl mechanic, is troubled by her success in a field regarded as unfeminine. Happenstance drives them apart and together as they pass through the worlds of punk rock, female pro wrestling, and even prostitution before being reunited—forever?—in a police car.

Despite the occasional flying saucer and demon billionaire, the only real unreality of *Locas* is that

AIDS is barely mentioned. And also, perhaps, that Hopey is too lovable for words. —Laurel Maury



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book reviews

Everywhere man

Sexually, spiritually, and politically, Christopher Isherwood lived his life to the limits—a gay hero for our time **By David Ehrenstein**

Isherwood: A Life Revealed

■ Peter Parker ■ Random House ■ \$39.95

Chisolm was never more than a minor diversion, and Isherwood was still seeing Derek Neame.... He was also still having sex with Tony Hyndman 'whenever the opportunity offered itself.'

Many kinds of readers will want a copy of *Isherwood: A Life Revealed*, Peter Parker's massive, exhaustively detailed biography of one of the key literary figures of the last century. But for the book's gay readers, the passage quoted above goes to show that Parker, the out biographer of J.R. Ackerley, was the perfect man for the job: With Isherwood, if you've got the boyfriends right, then pretty much everything else will fall into place.

Born in England 100 years ago this past August, Christopher Isherwood made his fame with his tales of bohemian Berlin in the '30s. But as Parker shows, the stories that served as the basis of the iconic musical *Cabaret* were just one small part of Isherwood's journey.

The pre-Berlin Isherwood—along with his great friend, sometime collaborator, and frequent bedmate W.H. Auden—was such a literary light that when the pair left England for the United States just as World War II was getting under way, friends as well as foes felt betrayed. But they were being true to their respective selves. Auden settled and thrived in New York City. Isherwood took off for Los Angeles, the better to study Vedanta—the Hindu religious philosophy that came to be as central to his life as his sexuality—as well as writing for the movies, falling in and out of love (and many beds), turning his wild self into someone spiritually steady, and

recording it all in his diaries.

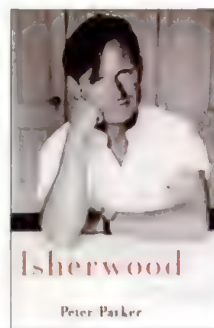
Having been granted access to Isherwood's entire archive, Parker shows us a man who seemed to have everything going for him yet felt such inner chaos that a full-scale search for the meaning of life was the only answer.

Isherwood became the inspiration for Somerset Maugham's classic novel of spiritual quest, *The Razor's Edge*. He also inspired E.M. Forster, who entrusted Isherwood with the manuscript of *Maurice* for its posthumous publication. It couldn't have been in better hands, for by that point Isherwood's gayness had come to full literary fruition with his masterpiece, *A Single Man*, and Isherwood himself had become an elder to the gay liberation movement—a role he accepted gladly.

Yet for all this, Parker's book deals more with Isherwood the Englishman than Isherwood the American—a sore point with Isherwood's surviving partner, Don Bachardy, who feels the book slights the achievements of later years and regards Isherwood "the same old way" that British critics have before.

It's precisely because he refused to calcify—always refining himself as well as his thoughts—that Isherwood remains central to a new generation of readers. Those who know Isherwood only as the creator of Sally Bowles will be surprised to discover the canny observer of Berlin, the randy L.A. party boy, and the settled citizen who found true love at last with Bachardy. It's this settled Isherwood who speaks to gays and lesbians today, declaring his right to love and—adventurous to the end—taking on the world and writing it down. ■

Ehrenstein is the author of Open Secret: Gay Hollywood, 1928–2000.



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A former teen hustler himself, JT LeRoy was once just like the dead-end kids he writes about. LeRoy found a way to escape, though, by writing it all down. His first two books—*Sarah*, about a young truck-stop prostitute, and *The Heart Is Deceitful Above All Things*—a story collection about more kids in trouble, have met with critical acclaim, movie deals, and a literary cult following that doesn't flinch from the

torment his characters suffer.

Harold's End, a novella first published in *McSweeney's* and now illustrated by Cherry Hood, visits a new batch of LeRoy's children on San Francisco's streets.

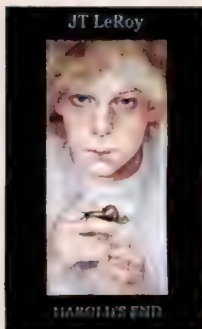
The kids—and

there's no imagining that Hood's startling prepubescent faces in watercolor are older or tougher—are all heroin-addicted hookers, and all have pet animals in tow.

The main boy, however, has neither a name nor a pet until Larry, a middle-aged, upper-middle-class trick, brings the blond kid into his home and gives him a cleaner class of drugs, a plastic cup housing a snail named Harold, and an introduction to the world of hard-core kink. This dysfunctional adoption, ironically, reawakens the boy's desire for more than his next fix.

It's LeRoy's own fierce protectiveness of his characters that makes *Harold's End* more than another story of down-and-out hustlers. He can toss readers into scenes from throwaway lives they'd just as soon not witness, yet still inspire empathy. His narration, clear-eyed and non-judgmental, still conveys the deepest heartbreak. He makes the time spent with his empty, broken-shelled kids a visit that resists despair. —*Dave White*

White writes about film for *E!* Online.



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Wanda Sykes

As conservative culture lumbers across the land, gay Americans can be grateful for Wanda Sykes. In her stand-up act and her roles on HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and Comedy Central's *Crank Yankers*, the take-no-prisoners comedian whumps and stomps the hypocrisy of "moral values." Sykes is now on Comedy Central with her own reality show, *Wanda Does It*, and in bookstores with her new title, *Yeah, I Said It*. —Chad Graham

Are you aware that you have a gay following?

Now that I've been touring, I've noticed, and I couldn't be happier. There's usually a large group of guys together, and I know that I'm not to the frat-boy taste. I'm 40. Frat boys aren't coming out to see me.

What do you think gays like about you?

I think gay people like the fact that I pretty much say what's on my mind and I don't hold back. Also I'm hard on the [Bush] administration, so I think they appreciate that.

Do you know any good gay jokes?

In my act I say I don't understand what the fear is—that gay marriage is going to be better than straight marriage? Then the husbands will be scared their wives will be nagging at them, like "Oh, look at Pete and Jim, they're so happy." And the husband is like, "Well, maybe if you let me [*gay sex act deleted*] a couple times, we'll get along like Pete and Jim."

What do you make of all of these Christian conservatives who turned out to vote for Bush and vote for the same-sex marriage bans?

I think they're just a bunch of playa haters. I don't understand why some people are concerned about other people's marriages. If they are really about protecting marriage, where were they when Liza Minnelli married that David Gest dude? Come on.

Any career advice for Mary Cheney now that she's no longer heading her father's reelection campaign?

I can't believe she actually ran his campaign. I think she should seek some psychological help.

You used to work at the National Security Agency. Is there a lot of gay love going on there?

No, they were all tight-asses. That's why I had to get out of there—it was so boring.

Have you ever had a fling with a woman?

I went to college, so of course. That's what you do in college.

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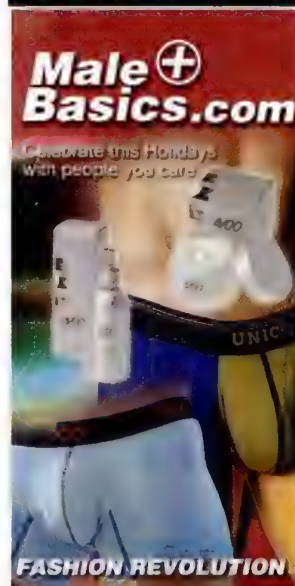
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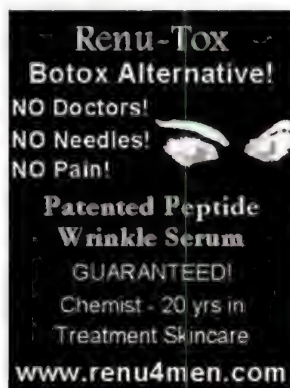
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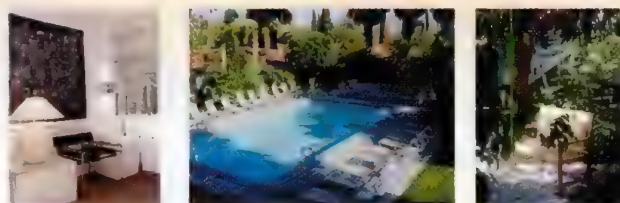
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Dear Republican friends...



Some of my best friends are Republicans. I grew up in the Deep South, so they were hard to avoid. While none of them supports the Federal Marriage Amendment—not to my face, at least—none of them is willing to break ranks with the Republican Party over it either. They spent the past year reassuring me

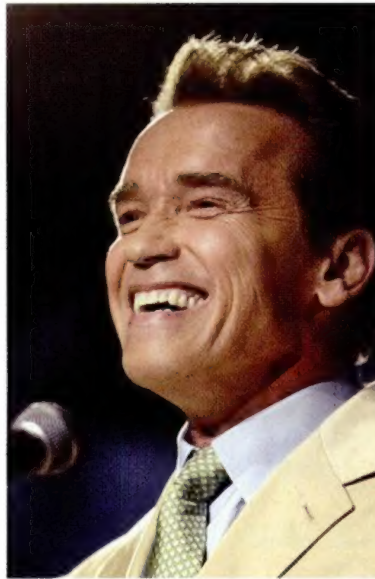
with promises that the amendment would fail and that their president had put it on the table for just that reason. Before gay marriage bans were passed in 11 states, my Republican friends had a simple message for me: “Don’t panic. We hate those right-wing nut jobs as much as you do.”

Now I have a message for them.

Prove it! Take back your party from the religious extremists who are doing so much to demonize the friends you’re always willing to console. Stop posting maudlin, disingenuous e-mails on blogs about your deep regret over having to sacrifice your gay friends for more important issues. David Brooks, your esteemed representative on *The New York Times* op-ed page, is claiming that this whole moral values platform thing is bunk anyway. He says no right-wing mandate emerged from this election. Instead, we’re seeing the “big middle.”

If you guys are so consumed with remorse, why don’t you add a little more middle to that middle and push the right off the map? When you get a mailer from one of those pro-family groups that contains statistics from a supposedly scientific study about how my boyfriend and I will probably have molested three young boys before we see you next, mail it back. But write some choice words on it first. In lipstick. Make a donation to those little enclaves of grinning martyrs called the Log Cabin Republicans. As if the beating they

were taking from the rest of us weren’t bad enough, this president of yours has practically put them in a coma. They could use a little cheering up. Visit them. Bring them flowers. (Gay Republicans love flowers too.)



Before you start in on me with a diatribe about how one person can’t free your party from the grip of the Christian right, I would like to direct your attention to that blue coast on a sea of red—the big one: California. Considering we’re all hemp-clad hippies and spoiled Hollywood slackers, it’s no surprise we went for Kerry, right? But California has Republicans too, and you could take a few pointers from them. Thanks to them, this blue coast has

a Republican governor who broke with the right wing by securing millions for stem cell research and endorsing legal recognition for gay couples on *The Tonight Show*. But don’t take him for some liberal softie in an elephant costume—our three-strikes law is still firmly intact, and even our jaywalkers are running scared at the prospect of having their DNA entered into a national database. If Governor Schwarzenegger is proof of anything, it’s that a Republican fist can strike an effective blow without the aid of a divine lightning bolt.

You could have a Schwarzenegger of your very own. But you have to invite him first. And lay off that old bunk about how California is a sun-drenched alternate universe, its politics and values as irrelevant to your mainstream way of life as the writings of Noam Chomsky. Remember Ronald Reagan?

Does this sound too harsh? I’m not asking you to burn your Republican membership card. I’m asking you to take back your party, not leave it. The gay friends you have been giving defensive and condescending lectures to all year will surely appreciate it—as soon as they stop peering out the windows in search of the four white-hooded horsemen they expect to come charging up their driveway at any given minute.

There is one problem with this. It’s a big one, so I have saved it for last. If you’re successful in rescuing the Republican Party from the religious extremists who have held it hostage for almost two decades, you guys will have to say goodbye to a lot of cold, hard cash. I’ll leave it to you folks to come up with a good term for a person who accepts money to betray his friends. (Try the Bible.) ■

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